



Russian masterplan for the industrial domination of space

By Keith Hindley

The Soviet Union is poised to seize the lead in the industrial exploitation of space, Western experts believe.

At a time when Britain is refusing to increase its spending on space research Russia is planning kilometre-wide mirrors in space to light cities and boost crops.

The first stage of the plan is only 10 years away. A later phase, planned for 2002, will develop giant solar-cell power stations, sending hundreds of megawatts of power down infra-red laser beams.

The ambitious Soviet space plan is aimed at solving the world's energy and pollution problems, giving the world access to the unlimited mineral and energy resources of space. It would remove the threat of another Chernobyl nuclear disaster by making ground-based power generation obsolete.

Although some Western space scientists are sceptical of the more optimis-

tic Soviet claims, a detailed analysis of Soviet achievements reveals their single-minded determination to develop space as a wealth-creating resource.

A £20 billion rocket, Energia, puts these plans within reach. It has already been successfully test flown.

On May 15 it took off from the Soviet Union's Tyuratam space complex and began a new era of space exploitation — an era to which, at the moment, the USSR alone has the key.

The new rocket performed perfectly, according to Soviet sources, and will raise 270 tonnes into orbit at one go in its fully developed form.

Energia is 200 feet tall and can lift the equivalent of nine US space shuttle flights. Its eight main engines produce 170 million horse power and are far ahead of any Western rocket engines in sophistication.

It has the capacity to launch large, permanent laboratories on their way to

£20bn Energia rocket aimed at exploiting energy and mineral resources with solar power

Mars and the moon and to establish orbiting space factories on a huge scale. The Russians claim they will soon have the ability to launch hundreds of thousands of tonnes of material into space each year from three giant launch pads.

Russia's giant leap — 3

Only the much smaller British Hotol (Horizontal take-off and Landing) spaceplane — in which Britain's stake is now in jeopardy — offers anything comparable. But Hotol will lift only eight tonnes instead of Energia's 270 tonnes.

Energia can also launch a space station 78 times higher than any manned earth

satellite has ever been before, 22,500 miles high where satellites hover over one half of the earth far below and is ideal for surveillance.

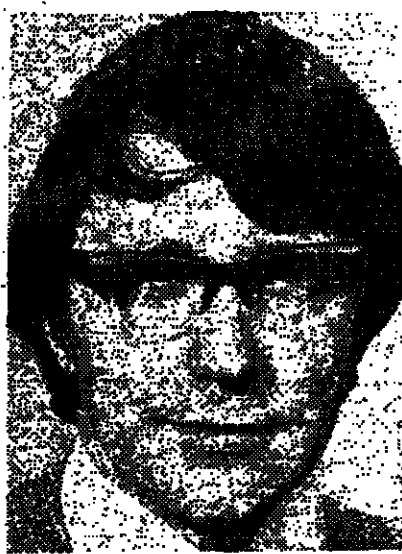
Mr Alan Bond, designer of the Hotol engine, is head of space propulsion at the UK Atomic Energy Authority at Culham and the rocket expert at Commercial Space Technologies, Britain's leading space consultants, told *The Times*: "My colleagues and I are convinced from studying Russian space research published by many of their leading experts, that the Russians are now years ahead along the path to space industrialization and poised to gain benefits which would give them economic leadership of the world."

"From our researches emerges a

consistent picture that, back in 1975 the Russians abandoned any idea of a space race with America and switched instead to a very long-term economic project. "The Americans still do not believe it all. They cannot seem to conceive that anything important can happen outside the US, but the USSR programme has clearly been worked through thoroughly. Their rockets may look crude but under the casing they are years ahead in engine performance."

Some experts believe that the American Star Wars announcement was an initial reaction to the first clues of the Soviet space masterplan but Mr Bond: "I think that Star Wars resulted from a misinterpretation of the vast work the Russians have been doing on lasers in recent years. They have assumed a military intention was the main thrust, but it is not, it is an economic one."

A measure of the intensity of Soviet activities can be seen in the 1986 launch



Mr Bond: "Russian rockets may look crude but they are years ahead."

Labour drive to transform union image

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

A radical drive to transform the public image of trade unionism is to be launched by the Labour Party leadership.

Mr Michael Meacher, Labour's new spokesman on employment, has embarked on a two-year programme aimed at dispelling the view of unions, held by a big section of the population, as a destructive and negative force in society.

Mr Meacher is discussing with union leaders a package of ideas designed to emphasize and enhance the positive role that unions can play in industry.

The aim is to build a stronger union movement, more attractive to potential recruits, but one in which rewards for workers are im-

proved by unions playing a strengthened role in workplace decisions rather than engaging in confrontation.

Mr Meacher, who emphasized that his views were shared by many of the union leaders with whom he has spoken, said that while the right to withdraw labour must always remain, it should be seen "as a weapon of absolute last resort".

Mr Meacher is aiming to build on the progress of the last major Labour-TUC policy document, *New Rights and New Responsibilities*, which

Labour PR campaign — 2

accepted many of the labour reforms introduced by the Conservatives, including ballots before strikes and for the elections of union officials.

Among the proposals he wants explored are:

- Improved union services for members, such as discount-purchasing, mortgages, legal aid, car breakdown assistance and financial advice.

- A concentration of union resources on the growing numbers of part-time, temporary, low-paid workers.

- Union initiatives in seeking more involvement in company decision-making, including training, health and safety provisions, new technology, manpower planning and product development.

- Union assistance in the process of communication between management and staff.

Mr Meacher supported the idea of union credit cards, such as a TGWU card. However more staff would have to be taken on to provide such facilities.

He said the Conservative Government had seen the development of a two-tier labour market of highly paid

and skilled workers in secure employment and a second group which was becoming more vulnerable.

He said: "They are being appallingly treated under Thatcher. They are almost totally excluded from unfair dismissal protection. The unions must help them, recruit them and show them that membership can ease their burdens."

The idea that company decision making was traditionally for management must be removed. "The unions should publicly make clear that they want to be involved in these things."

"Of course they are going to argue for their members' interests, but they are going to play a positive and co-operative role, accepting the need for change when it is justified. Most employers are prepared to cooperate given the chance."

Mr Meacher said unions should not attempt to block the tendency towards direct communication between managers and workers, even if it is over the head of union officials, but should be pressing for an increased flow of information about matters like sales and production targets.

He is expected to visit European countries to study union management cooperation practices as part of his examination.

He said: "If it succeeds there will be a net gain in both members and services and in economic performance. High productivity and good performance is just as much in the interest of workers as of their companies."

Mr Meacher said: "I want the unions to regain their position of strength but the vast majority do not want to return to the destructive, negative image of the past."



Prince Harry finds himself unable to hold back a yawn as he and his mother meet the world's press at the Marlborough Palace in Majorca yesterday.

Battle of the royal photocall

By Alan Hamilton

In the fond but fruitless hope that they might spend the rest of their brief Mediterranean holiday undisturbed by photographers, the Prince and Princess of Wales yesterday agreed to pose for pictures. It was, as such occasions have become, a shambles.

Firstly, the less scrupulous newspapers paid no heed to the request for privacy, and weekend editions were supplied with pictures of the Princess sunbathing in a bikini of which her mother-in-law would probably disapprove. Other papers were preparing last night to use snatched shots of the Princess building sandcastles with her children, which was certainly not part of the official photocall.

Secondly, yesterday's facility at the Marlborough Palace in Majorca, where the Royal couple are staying as guests of their close friends the King and Queen of Spain, degenerated into jostling between British and Spanish journalists, the Spanish complaining that the visitors were taking all the best positions. A threat by the Spanish photographers to refuse to take any pictures at all had no effect.

Photocalls have become regular events when the Prince and Princess, the Duke and Duchess of York, go on holiday, particularly on their regular Easter skiing break. The most successful, from the victims' point of view, was that staged by the Yorks in Canada last month before they embarked on a canoe holiday in the North-West Territories. The terrain was too wild and remote for even the hardest Fleet Street cameraman to pursue them.

MP leads fight to stop Owen taking SDP and its title

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

Mr Charles Kennedy, the only Social Democrat MP to back a merger with the Liberals, yesterday emerged as the key figure in the campaign to stop Dr David Owen taking the SDP and its title with him as he battles to establish a fourth political force.

Mr Kennedy, aged 27, the MP for Ross Cromarty and Skye, is already being seen as a possible contender to be deputy leader of the new merged party, assuming that Mr David Steel will be the leader, when it comes into force some time next year.

Yesterday, as the battle over the future of the SDP raged on, Mr Kennedy tabled a motion for this month's conference of the SDP at Farnborough, suggesting the terms for the merger negotiations between the two parties.

His motion says the objective of the talks should be to "create a new party incorporating the SDP and the Liberal Party".

The aim was to make crystal clear that the merged party, when it is formed, will take into the SDP as an institution and that Dr Owen, who has resigned the leadership, could not take the party with him.

Mr Kennedy also proposes that the constitution for the new party should be based on the one member one vote system, and that the negotiating team to be appointed by the national committee of the SDP should represent the opinions of both the pro and anti-mergerists in the recent ballot.

This is a signal that the negotiators are determined to ensure that the views of the 43 per cent who voted against full merger will be taken into account.

It is believed that the pro-mergerists are optimistic that Mr Robert MacLennan, MP for Caithness and Sutherland, who has been opposed to merger but may be on the verge of switching sides, will take part in the talks. He was the author of the SDP's constitution. Mr MacLennan is in the United States and could not be contacted yesterday.

Mrs Rosie Barnes, MP for Greenwich, who is leading the Owenite campaign for a separate campaign for social democracy, yesterday reported a surge of retaining the SDP from people contacted by her since the ballot.

She had written to them appealing for funds and expressions of support once the ballot result was known.

She also welcomed the survey in *The Sunday Times* suggesting that Dr Owen has far greater support on the

was in debt to them. A spokesman for Leabrooks said yesterday that a complaint would be laid before Tattersalls only in extreme cases; bookmakers owed large sums by credit customers were usually able to reach an agreement for the debt to be cleared in instalments.

Mr Ramsden, who is aged 34, is chairman of Walsall football club and owner of a private jet which flew the Argentinian footballer, Diego Maradona, into Britain for a match at Wembley on Saturday.

Rules may alter to end house sale gazumping

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

Changes in house-buying rules are expected after evidence that the practice of house sellers raising agreed prices at the last minute — gazumping — is again on the increase.

The Department of the Environment is understood to support proposals to introduce the Scottish system of house purchase to England and Wales.

The key minister involved in the decision will be Lord Havers, the Lord Chancellor, who is awaiting the report of the Law Commission's conveyancing committee.

This sets out ways of operating the Scottish system in England and Wales. In Scotland, prospective purchasers hand in sealed bids to a solicitor's property department.

On a set day the envelopes are opened, the highest bid accepted and the agreement reached.

The seller is not entitled to reopen the bidding and the would be buyer is not given a

second chance to increase a bid that was too low in the first place.

The Scottish system could be adopted in England without legislation and is backed by environment ministers. But Whitehall sources stress that a government decision may be some time away.

Environment ministers have been constantly pushing for wide ranging measures, such as the computerization of local authority records, which would shorten the interval between the making of an offer for a house and the adoption of a legally-binding contract.

"That is the key to stopping gazumping", a source said.

Conservative MPs are demanding action to stop the abuse. Mr John Heddle, chairman of the backbench environment committee, introduced a Bill making it compulsory for buyers and seller to deposit a set part of the agreed price with solicitors.

Black miners brace for trial of strength

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg

Thousands of black South African miners were bused out of a Transvaal gold-mine yesterday as the National Union of Mineworkers braced itself for a trial of strength with employers and the Government.

An NUM spokesman said the union had begun busing its workers out before the mid-night strike deadline at the Randfontein Mine, claiming its members were told they would be forced to go underground if they stayed.

Union officials also accused

managements of a last-minute "dirty-tricks" campaign in circulating fake pamphlets to miners to try to prevent more than 200,000 of them downing tools throughout the country.

The walk-out — which could develop into the biggest legal strike in South African mining history — was set to begin with yesterday's night shift at 28 gold and 18 coal mines where the NUM is recognised.

The union has drawn up

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Hint at rethink on UK role in Gulf

By Nicholas Beeson

The Foreign Office hinted yesterday that Britain, in co-operation with the international community, might be prepared to reconsider its decision not to send minesweepers to the Gulf if Iran laid more mines in international sea-lanes.

Mr David Mellor, the Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, said the UK and other countries would have to think again if more mines were put down in international sea-lanes.

"As far as we can tell at this moment no further mines have been laid," he said. "So our view on minesweepers remains exactly the same."

Britain maintains the three-ship Armilla Patrol to escort British merchant vessels through the Strait of Hormuz

as far north as Bahrain. Because of a routine replacement of the patrol, there are currently five Royal Navy warships east of the Suez Canal. Tehran Radio yesterday interpreted the build-up of United States, French and British naval forces in the region as a possible "precursor to an international fleet under the United Nations that would put pressure on Iran to compromise" in the Gulf war.

Although Britain has not officially altered its Gulf policy, Foreign Office sources confirmed that Mr Mellor delivered one of the most strongly-worded attacks on Iran by the Government since the US decision to escort reflagged Kuwaiti tankers last

Continued on page 18, col 1

Racing owner to answer £2m gambling debt claim

By Alan Hamilton

Mr Terry Ramsden, who owns more than 50 racehorses and is widely regarded as one of racing's most serious and flamboyant gamblers, is expected to appear before the disciplinary committee of Tattersalls, one of the principal regulatory bodies of the sport, to explain reports that he has accumulated gambling debts of over £2 million.

It was not clear last night whether Mr Ramsden would appear at today's regular committee meeting in the Cafe

Royal or at a future meeting. Mr Ramsden was not available for comment yesterday.

His personal spokeswoman issued a statement last night which said: "Mr Ramsden will appear following two months of rumour that he has outstanding gambling debts of over £2 million."

"He has always denied this categorically, and will use it as an opportunity to put the record straight."

The spokeswoman was unable to say whether Mr Ramsden had been

summoned before the committee following complaints from bookmakers, or whether he had asked to appear in order to dispel rumours.

Gambling debts are not recoverable in law, but Tattersalls have the power to make recommendations to the Jockey Club, which can then warn off individuals from all racecourses.

Rumour circulating in the racing world has suggested that Mr Ramsden owes a large sum to one of the "Big Four" bookmakers, but none would confirm yesterday that Mr Ramsden

Portfolio

● £8,000 can be won in the Times Portfolio Gold competition today, double the usual amount because there was no winner on Saturday. Portfolio list, page 22. ● Three readers shared the £8,000 weekly prize. Details, page 3.

INDEX

Home News	2-5
Overseas	6-7
Business	19-22
Sport	28-32
Arts	14
Births, deaths, marriages	13
Bridge	13
Chess	2
City Diary	21
Court	12
Crème de la Crème	26-27
Crosswords	8, 18
Diary	16
Entertainment	16
Education appointments	24-25
Features	8, 10, 15
Information	16
Law Report	27
Leading articles	11
Letters	11
Nature Notes	12
Obituary	16
Premium Bonds	12
Religion	13
Science	13
TV & Radio	17
University results	27
Weather	18

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NEWS SUMMARY

Massive bill for tower block tests

Local authorities face a bill of more than £2 billion over the next few years to implement the recommendations of a government report on the safety of tower blocks. The report, the result of a three-year survey costing £2 million, told councils to carry out a series of checks to blocks of five or more storeys more than 25 years old.

Mr Sam Webb, an architect whose series of disclosures in *The Times* about blocks built using the large-panel system led to the investigation by the Government's Building Research Establishment, dismissed the report yesterday as "totally inadequate".

He said: "The report is 25 years too late. Now several blocks are going to have to be surveyed for the second or third time in recent years and the Government will have to make the funds available."

"There is a danger that councils will do nothing because they do not have the money", he added.

Pilot is identified

The pilot of a microflight aircraft who was killed when his machine crashed landed on Saturday was named yesterday.

Mr Ian Terry, aged 41, of Avenue Road, Lynton, Devon, took off from Popham airfield, near Basingstoke, and circled several times before his plane developed engine trouble and plunged into a field.

Mr Terry, a qualified microflight pilot, died instantly.

A Department of Trade inquiry into the incident has been launched.

Striker in hospital

A Tamil youth involved in a hunger strike on a detention ship at Harwich, Essex, was in hospital yesterday with a suspected kidney failure.

Selvarajah Surendram, aged 17, was said to be in a satisfactory condition. He is one of 47 Tamils in the ninth day of a hunger strike on board the ship.

Their protest is over the time taken to process their immigration documents. Most have been held for more than three months on the former Sealink ferry, Earl William.

Marksman's holiday

Scotland Yard has given £2,500 to the marksman who shot dead two armed robbers last month so that he can take his wife and family on holiday. Police Constable Anthony Long, aged 30, killed Michael Flynn and Nicholas Payne during a raid on an abattoir in Plumstead, south London.

Senior officers believed PC Long was showing signs of stress during interviews and applied to Scotland Yard's welfare department for the money. During his absence, it is believed alarms and surveillance equipment will be fitted at his home. Police patrols will also be increased. It is highly unusual for a junior officer to be given such protection.

Games debt

The Commonwealth Games (Scotland 1986) Ltd, whose chairman is Mr Robert Maxwell, has still not paid a total of about £2 million to 10 large creditors (Our Sports News Correspondent writes).

All but one of the creditors, which include Trusthouse Forte and three local authorities, have agreed to accept 67p in the pound.

Income from the Games was £11.3 million while costs reached £15.6 million. The Games company said that the money could not be paid because "we are still operating on a frozen bank account".

Jamboree scouts hurt

Seven Venture Scouts were injured, four seriously, when an estate car drove through them on the opening night of an international jamboree at Costessey in Norfolk. The scouts, who had been out for a social evening, were returning at 11.20pm on Saturday to their camp along an unlit stretch of the A47.

Last night Mr Richard Lamb, aged 18, Mr Adrian Soper, aged 19, both of Oxford, Mr Derek Northcott, aged 21, of Ham, Plymouth, and Mr Dan Smithers, aged 17, from Bath, were in a stable condition in hospital.

Step up action on pay, bank staffs are told

Staff at Barclays and National Westminster banks will be asked this month to step up their current industrial action to include one-day strikes, lunchtime stoppages and work-to-rule.

Some of the 40,000 workers have been involved in an overtime ban for the past eight weeks, but the national executive committee of the Banking, Insurance and Finance Union decided this weekend to ask its members to intensify their action.

Mr Bill Vose, assistant secretary of the union, said that if members voted in favour of increased industrial action, he forecast long queues.

Union will offer free legal help

By Tim Jones

Members of the electricians' union are to be offered free legal consultations to help them overcome personal problems.

The Electrical, Electronic and Plumbing Union (EETPU) is already operating a pilot scheme on Tyneside and is planning to extend it nationally this year.

Under the scheme, any of the union's 347,635 members could consult a solicitor for half an hour on a wide range of domestic and personal matters.

A survey of union members has shown that motor, consumer affairs and matrimonial problems top the list for legal attention closely followed by housing problems. As the number of strikes in Britain falls, unions are offering non-work related benefits to attract members. With nine million members, the TUC is well placed to negotiate perks such as cut price insurance.

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IT'LL DRIVE EVERYONE

Polys receiving 13 applications for every place

By Sarah Thompson
Education Reporter

Polytechnics received more than 13 separate applications for every place last year, and more than 17 per cent of students admitted did not have A levels or other standard qualifications.

For the first time polytechnics can gain a clear picture of the numbers of young people and mature students chasing college places because a new central admissions system, PCAS, a similar service to the University Central Council on Admissions, began operating in 1985.

PCAS fears that the information now available will make it possible to create "league tables" and has sounded a warning in its first annual report.

However the report gives

enough information to disclose to anyone with a pocket calculator that Bristol Polytechnic received on average the highest number of applications per place - 19.4, followed by Oxford with 17.7 and Portsmouth and Brighton with 17.6 applicants per place.

The fewest applications per place was felt at Teesside Polytechnic with 4.9 followed by North East London with 5.4 and Wolverhampton with 6.8. The rest were on average between ten and 15 applications per place.

The report warns: "To draw comparisons between polytechnics on the basis of this information alone would be invidious and any attempt to construct league tables of, say, 'league tables' and has sounded a warning in its first annual report.

Labour faces campaign to introduce PR

By Philip Webster and Roland Radd

Mr Neil Kinnock is determined to oppose the sudden upsurge of support in the Labour Party and union movement for the introduction of proportional representation.

In what appears to be a response to Labour's third election defeat in a row, activists from Labour's constituency parties are calling for a review of the voting system, and the first debate in recent history on the issue seems certain to be staged at the annual conference in the autumn.

And yesterday it became clear that unions from the left and right are ready to indulge in a rare show of unity by trying to persuade Mr Kinnock to change his mind.

Mr Arthur Scargill, the left-wing leader of the National Union of Mineworkers, and a life-long supporter of electoral reform, yesterday made clear that he thought it was time for the Labour Party to consider introducing proportional representation.

Mr Scargill said: "It's not an anathema to our party, it was part and parcel of the original manifesto of the Labour Representation Committee, the forerunner of the Labour Party."

"It's a sobering thought that had we had proportional representation it's highly unlikely that Mrs Thatcher would be Prime Minister."

Mr Scargill is planning to speak in favour of electoral reform at the conference as the best way of "winning the mass vote of the British people against Mrs Thatcher".

He will be joined by Mr Gavin Laird, general secretary of Britain's second largest union - the Amalgamated Engineering Union.

Mr Laird, who is firmly on the right, said he was "delighted" by the unprecedented number of conference resolutions on proportional representation.

"It's not before time that the Labour Conference discussed this issue. The AEU has never taken a formal decision on electoral reform but I will personally be advocating support for it."

Mr Laird remains confident that his union will throw its support behind one of the resolutions calling on the Labour Leadership to accept proportional representation as party policy.

The right-wing electricians' union is also likely to support Mr Scargill's call for proportional representation, despite being involved in bitter clashes with the NUM at past Labour conferences.

The NUM leader is increasingly confident that other unions will join the bandwagon rolling in favour of proportional representation once they accept the fact that the Labour Party has the best chance of forming a Government if it can "pull the maximum number of votes against Tory policies in a future general election".

Some 27 resolutions have been tabled for the conference on PR, more than on such traditional areas as health, social ownership and the economy, and they appear to reflect the despair felt by many Labour activists at the scale of the party's defeat.

Mr Kinnock is resolutely hostile to the idea of changing Britain's first-past-the-post electoral system, although some party figures believe he may be prepared to go along with an examination of possibilities.

Spycatcher on the festival fringe

Readings of *Spycatcher*, the memoirs of Mr Peter Wright, the former MI6 officer, were given in Edinburgh yesterday.

British newspapers have been banned from printing extracts from the book and it cannot be published in Britain.

Two Scottish Labour MPs, Mr Alastair Darling, and Mrs Maria Fyfe, read a number of extracts from the book to a public audience below The Mound in the centre of Edinburgh.

The MPs were joined by participants in the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, who also read from the book. Police took no action.

The editor of the *News on Sunday*, Mr Brian Whitaker, said he was waiting for the Government law officers to start criminal contempt proceedings against him and the newspaper's publishers.

The newspaper, which last

week published an extract from *Spycatcher*, yesterday carried several extracts from the Chapman Pincher book *Theirs is the Fear*, which Mr Whitaker said overlapped with the banned book.

It is understood that the *News on Sunday* was advised that publication of further extracts could infringe serial rights for *Spycatcher* held by *The Sunday Times*.

Mr Whitaker said: "We feel we made our point with the initial extract. We will continue our campaign against this gag on newspapers in other ways."

A Hong Kong newspaper, the *English-language Sunday Morning Post*, has filed an appeal against a court order banning publication of extracts from Mr Wright's memoirs. The newspaper said it wanted to continue printing extracts from *Spycatcher*.

Unionists seek escape route from agreement

By Richard Ford

The two Unionist Party leaders will meet senior Civil Servants from the Northern Ireland Office this week for the second round of "talks about talks" with the Government.

The meeting is likely to last longer than the initial 20-minute discussion last month which effectively ended a 17-month period when there had been little official contact between unionists and the Government because of the deadlock caused by the Anglo-Irish agreement.

Mr James Molyneux, leader of the Official Unionists, and the Rev Ian Paisley, of the Democratic Unionists, are attempting to discover whether negotiations can

begin on an alternative to the agreement.

Both men are extremely cautious about the likely outcome of the talks which initially involve senior Civil Servants at the Northern Ireland Office. Mr Molyneux has said it may take some time to see if the Government was willing to negotiate a replacement for the agreement. "It is quite a complicated process

and extreme caution is necessary. No one should be expecting too much too soon."

Mr Paisley has insisted that no full-scale negotiations could begin without two conditions being met - a cessation of the agreement and an end to activities at Maryfield, the headquarters of the secretariat.

Both men say the Government must indicate whether it

A small pressure group is campaigning against the Government's changes to the free school meals system which came in next April.

The West Midlands Low Pay Unit says that the new arrangements will create a "two tier system of poverty" by distinguishing between the working poor and the unemployed poor.

From April local education authorities will no longer be able to use their discretion in

allocating free school meals but will instead only be allowed to give them to families on supplementary benefit.

For more than 600,000 families now on family income supplement, free school meals are being replaced by a weekly allowance equal to about 60 pence per school meal.

The unit said yesterday: "This departs from the age-old principle of assistance on the basis of need."

Until now comparisons between the two sectors have been largely based on guesswork.

PCAS received 138,877 applicants chasing a total of 37,105 places, which represents 3.74 applicants per place. Up to four applications were allowed per candidate

and in total there were more than 13 for every place.

The highest ratio of applications to places was found in the medical field (26.6 applications per place), followed by education (24.5) and the creative arts (23.2).

The least "popular" on this guide were the combined arts, social studies and sciences and the mathematical sciences. But at both ends of this scale availability of places is as much a factor as popularity.

The report gives a rough guide to which polytechnics receive the most applications for particular subject groups.

The guide is not definitive because of the varying availability and patterns of course available at each, but Portsmouth receives the most in biological sciences, physical sciences, engineering and

technology and languages and related studies.

Leicester receives the most applications for medicine and mathematical sciences; Oxford, which has a complex modular system of arranging courses, for science combined with social studies or arts and for social studies combined with arts; Trent for social sciences on their own and for business administration; Leeds for architecture, building and planning; Newcastle for education.

The 15 polytechnics with the most applications per place in 1986 were: 1 Bristol, 19.4; 2 Oxford, 17.7; 3 Portsmouth and Brighton, 17.6; 5 Manchester, 16.5; 6 Leeds, 16.2; 7 Sheffield and Trent, 16.2; 9 Leicester and Newcastle, 15.1; 11 Central London, 14.3; 12 Kingston, 13.8; 13 City, 13.4; 14 Middlesbrough, 12.1; 15 Birmingham, 11.9.



Police officers inspect the wreckage of the two-seat helicopter after the fatal accident at Thruxton airfield yesterday.

Parachutist killed by helicopter blades

A woman making her first parachute jump died when she hit revolving helicopter blades as she was about to land at Thruxton airfield, near Andover, Hampshire, yesterday.

Insp John Dawson, of Hampshire police, said that Miss Paula Goodday, aged 21, of Kent, had landed in the rotating helicopter blades after jumping from a light aircraft.

"The helicopter was hovering a few feet above the ground when the woman parachuted down. Near the end of her descent, she went off course and landed on the helicopter. Her body was badly mutilated and we are in the process of preparing reports for the coroner," Insp Dawson said.

The Thruxton Parachute Club, which trains new members at the weekend, has

previously been criticized for its safety record. Mr Francis Moynihan, a consultant paediatrician at the Royal Hampshire County Hospital, Winchester, has led a campaign against the number of injuries caused by parachute training at the airfield.

A spokesman for the hospital said yesterday that the number of broken bones suffered by parachutists at Thruxton had put pressure on the hospital and staff.

The trainee pilot of the helicopter, Mr Terence Cooper, aged 39, of Plantation Farm, Tarrant Hinton, near Blandford, Dorset, and the instructor, Mr Peter Wyatt, aged 56, of East Gomeldon Road, Salisbury, Wiltshire, were released from the Salisbury General Infirmary after

treatment for minor injuries. Staff at the Thruxton Flying School refused to comment.

Insp Dawson said that the dead woman was in a group of five who were being taught to parachute. "She plunged into the rotor blades of an Enstrom two-seat helicopter which was hovering about six feet off the ground. The machine turned on its side, injuring the pilot and his instructor."

"Both men were taken to hospital before being allowed home."

Insp Dawson said: "We have no idea why she went off course because a trainee before her carried out the exact same jump and landed in the designated area without any problems. All flying at the airfield has been stopped

while our inquiries continue."

A club member said: "Apparently she landed on top of the helicopter and was cut to pieces by the blades. Two people, believed to be an instructor and a trainee pilot, in the machine were injured as the blades bent and hit the helicopter."

"The police were on the scene very quickly and have cordoned off that end of the airfield. Everyone who saw the incident is being interviewed and is being asked to make a statement."

The Civil Aviation Authority launched an immediate inquiry into the accident. Hampshire police said that the Department of Transport had also started an inquiry. The dead woman's full address was not released, although relatives were informed.

BA and B-Cal stay talking

By Harvey Elliot
Air Correspondent

A team drawn from both British Airways and British Caledonian is to meet continually over the next three months to plan the merger of Britain's two leading scheduled airlines.

Although the £237 million offer by British Airways for B-Cal must be suspended during the Monopolies and Mergers Commission's investigation into the takeover, both airlines are so confident that they will eventually get the go-ahead they are pressing ahead with detailed plans for the link.

No firm decisions have yet been taken on the long term future for B-Cal but in the short term British Airways has promised to keep its routes and services intact.

Both airlines are determined, however, to have the new integrated airline operating in time for next summer's peak period.

One of the main options now being studied for the longer term future is to turn Gatwick into the world's biggest leisure airport.

Using B-Cal's charter subsidiary, Cal Air and British Airways as a basis, the merged airline would concentrate charter operations and flights to leisure and holiday destinations.

Computer experts are trying to discover what caused equipment to fail at Britain's main air traffic control centre at the weekend.

As controllers guided dozens of aircraft into and out of Britain's skies, the main computer, an IBM 9020D, went dead.

The controllers continued to advise pilots via a well tried back-up system. But this involves larger gaps than normal between aircraft, causing delays to flights using Heathrow.

The incident lasted about 25 minutes before the computer was brought back into action.

First indications are that the main computer itself did not fail but that there was a problem with the software - the detailed instructions given to the computer.

Because there is a massive increase in air traffic in Britain, this software is being constantly updated. It seems that it was this equipment which was incorrectly programmed.

The incident lasted about 25 minutes before the computer was brought back into action.

new aircraft to replace its ageing Trident fleet. The original plan was for the British Airways board to make a decision on which aircraft to buy on August 7. This was then delayed because it was believed that the merger could alter all the plans.

But now the Monopolies Commission has been called in, British Airways cannot afford to wait for three months before placing orders. It is planning to decide which aircraft to buy within the next two weeks.

It now seems likely that it will buy the Boeing 767 twin engine jet for a number of short and medium range routes and the McDonnell Douglas MD11 three engine aircraft for the longer routes.

First week chess lead for Short

By Harry Golombek

The international grandmaster Nigel Short ended the first week of the Kleinwort Greaveson British Chess championship in Swansea with the fine score of 5½ points out of 6 which leaves him a point ahead of the field of 58 players with five more rounds to be played this week.

Other leading scores are: Adams, Hodgson, Mestel, Fein, Flisak, and Fritchett, 4½; Conquest, Crawley, Callagher, Ivanov, King, Martin, McNab, Motwani, Rogers, Rossiter and Speelman, 4.

Results Round 6 (played on Saturday): Adams 0, Short 1; Ben ½, Fritchett ½; Callagher ½, Rogers ½; Mestel 1, Bellin 0; McDonald 0, Hodgson 1; Ivanov ½, Crawley ½; Wells 0, Plaskett 1; Conquest ½, Motwani ½; Speelman 1, Ward 0; King 1, Emms 0; McNab 1, Lane 0; Rossiter 1, Lawton 0; Copeland 0, Martin 1; Levitt ½, Upton ½; Thomas 1, Powell 0; Botterill 1, Gemmell 0; Kemp 1, Holmes 0; Holmes, R 0, Agnos 1; Hennigan 1, Muir 0; Willmoth ½, Heygort ½; Dunnington 0, Coleman 1; Sampson 0, Nicholson 1; Quillan ½, Gayson ½; Kinsman 1, Buckley 0; Osborne ½, Zeidler ½; Dunworth 0, Wise 1; Sathes-Thipsay 1, Carton 0; Way 1, McCarthy 0; Franklin ½, Shuter ½.

Outstanding games, Round 5: Holmes D 0, McDonald 1.

The performance of Nigel Short, who won the championship for the first time in 1984, threatens to spoil the reigning champion, international grandmaster Jonathan Speelman's attempt to score a hat trick.

Britain's John Nunn is on the threshold of success in the World Chess Championship Interzonal Tournament before today's final round (Raymond Keene writes).

Leading scores are: Johann Hjartarson (Iceland) 12 points from 16 games; John Nunn (GBR) and Vladimir Salov (USSR) both 11½ points; Lajos Portisch (Hungary) 11 points; Alexander Beliavsky (USSR) 10½ points.

Dr Robin Eames, Church of Ireland primate, had wanted the private discussions before the end of the month in the hope that some common ground could be found between unionists and nationalists.

Dr Eames, who is close to Mr Molyneux, believed that talks away from the glare of publicity would help to build trust and confidence.

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Baby heart surgery curtailed because of shortage of nurses

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

Children needing life-saving heart surgery are being turned away from London hospitals because of a shortage of qualified nurses, leading consultants claim today.

In a letter to *The Times*, consultants from the internationally renowned Brompton Hospital say they have had to close 50 per cent of their intensive-care units in the paediatric department because they cannot recruit nurses with the relevant experience.

The consultants call for a radical reappraisal of nurses' pay to allow hospitals to pay more where shortages occur.

Routine and urgent operations frequently have to be

cancelled to admit emergency cases and children already admitted for operations have to be sent home.

"The transfer of critically sick new-born babies as emergency cases if frequently refused or delayed until a nurse is available to provide the necessary care, inevitably increases the risk to the infant's life", the consultants say.

Yesterday one of the signatories, Dr Michael Rigby, a consultant paediatrician and cardiologist at the Brompton Hospital, said that the hospital had only half its complement of 60 nurses with intensive-care training, which meant that half the 12 beds had to be empty.

"Other supra-regional paediatric services such as Guy's Hospital, the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street and Harefield Hospital are all suffering the same problem", he said.

That meant that children needing operations often had to be transferred to hospitals out of London or to the private sector.

Brompton Hospital recently negotiated a deal with the private Cromwell Hospital whereby it pays reduced rates for NHS patients.

However Dr Rigby estimated that only six or eight children had been treated in private hospitals as, if complications set in, the bill would be too expensive.

"In other cases where centres have been unable to admit emergency cases for one or two days, babies may have died", he said.

Children needing urgent treatment such as hole in the heart operations were now added to lengthy waiting lists. "These children might be blue and breathless but they do not have life-threatening conditions so they have to wait."

Dr Rigby urged the Government to allow hospitals such as the Brompton to offer higher rates of pay to attract nurses. "Qualified nurses are leaving the NHS because they are underpaid and cannot afford accommodation rates", he said.

"Under the present system the NHS does not allow us to pay them any more, even where they have extra qualifications and there are shortages. The Government has an entrepreneurial spirit but this is not evident within the NHS."

Letter, page 11

Millions more needed to treat Aids victims

The high cost of treating Aids sufferers may lead the Government to grant emergency extra funding to "front line" hospitals (Our Science Correspondent writes).

New figures on the spread of the disease will be used this week by Mr John Moore, Secretary of State for Social Services, to justify a multi-million pound increase in spending on patient care next year. But specialists are already insisting more money must be allocated almost immediately.

Treasury and health officials are arguing over how much cash can be directed towards providing medical care, treatment and community support for Aids patients.

The "diagnosis till death" cost of treating an Aids sufferer is estimated at between £10,000 and £20,000. The only life-prolonging drug, Zidovudine (AZT), alone costs

£5,400 per patient and is likely to be rationed soon.

The latest figures, showing a steady progression of the disease, will probably take the number of identified cases beyond 900, of whom more than half have died.

Another 6,500 or so people are known to be infected with the Aids virus. Of those, at least 30 per cent are expected to develop symptoms of the disease.

The numbers of those infected, and the percentage in whom the disease will manifest itself, are regarded by specialists as serious underestimates.

All health authorities have been asked to submit their proposals for dealing with Aids to the Government, but by far the heaviest burden remains with the London regions, where three hospitals - the Middlesex, St Mary's and St Stephen's - treat most of Britain's cases.

Asthma sufferers drug alert

Asthma sufferers are being warned about the potential hazards of a commonly-prescribed painkiller.

The Government's Committee on the Safety of Medicines has said that the drug, ibuprofen, marketed in Britain by Boots under the brand name Nurofen, has been implicated in the deaths of three asthmatics.

The product, one of the group known as non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, was developed by Boots 20 years ago and has been one of the company's most successful painkillers.

Packets of Nurofen now carry a warning that asthma sufferers should consult their doctors before taking it. Although side effects are usually mild and infrequent, it has been shown to have serious effects on some asthmatics.

The committee has said that anyone whose asthma is worsened by aspirin should avoid the use of Nurofen or similar drugs containing indomethacin, one of a related group of pain relievers.

Boots has said that the drug is still considerably safer than aspirin.

The committee, whose advice is usually followed quickly, says in its August bulletin that doctors should report any similar incidents. The small number of deaths linked with ibuprofen is unlikely to lead to the drug being banned, but closer monitoring of side effects is now recommended.

The concern is that the drug may worsen asthma attacks, which is one of Britain's most common complaints. About 2,000 people a year die from such attacks, and doctors are concerned that the figures are rising. About two and a half million people are affected.

Unknown forces in the fields

The mystery of large symmetrical circles in crop fields deepened yesterday when more sightings in the south of England were recorded.

A large circle, with four smaller adjoining ones, has been seen in an escarpment called the Punchbowl, just outside Winchester, Hampshire. Others have been recorded in cereal fields in Dorset and Sussex.

Circles, including one with a 25-yard diameter surrounded by four others, reappeared on Friday near the "Western white horse" in Wiltshire, after an absence of two years.

Mr Pat Delgado, a design engineer who has studied the circles, yesterday admitted he was no nearer an explanation of how the crops of wheat, barley and rape are crushed into a perfect circle without any damage to the stems. Mr Delgado, from Alresford, Hampshire, says a common topographical feature is a steep hillside which could provide a buffer for winds to form a vortex.

Child abuse controversy Police doctor tells of diagnosis risks

A doctor at the centre of the Cleveland child abuse controversy has spoken for the first time about the risks in diagnosis.

Dr Raine Roberts, whose medical second opinion cast doubt on the findings of the paediatricians, Marietta Higgs and Geoffrey Wyatt, gave a warning about the dangers of misinterpreting symptoms.

The Manchester doctor and police surgeon who has 20 years' experience admitted paediatricians were walking a tightrope.

"If you get it wrong you're in trouble", she said. "If you miss something a poor child is left being abused by some horrible person."

"But there's a tendency to be overcautious. You have to be careful to look for a number of diagnoses and take the various facets together, rather than look at just one."

Dr Roberts would not comment specifically about the Cleveland crisis but she said medical evidence would be questioned much more than in the past and people would

have to take more notice of each other.

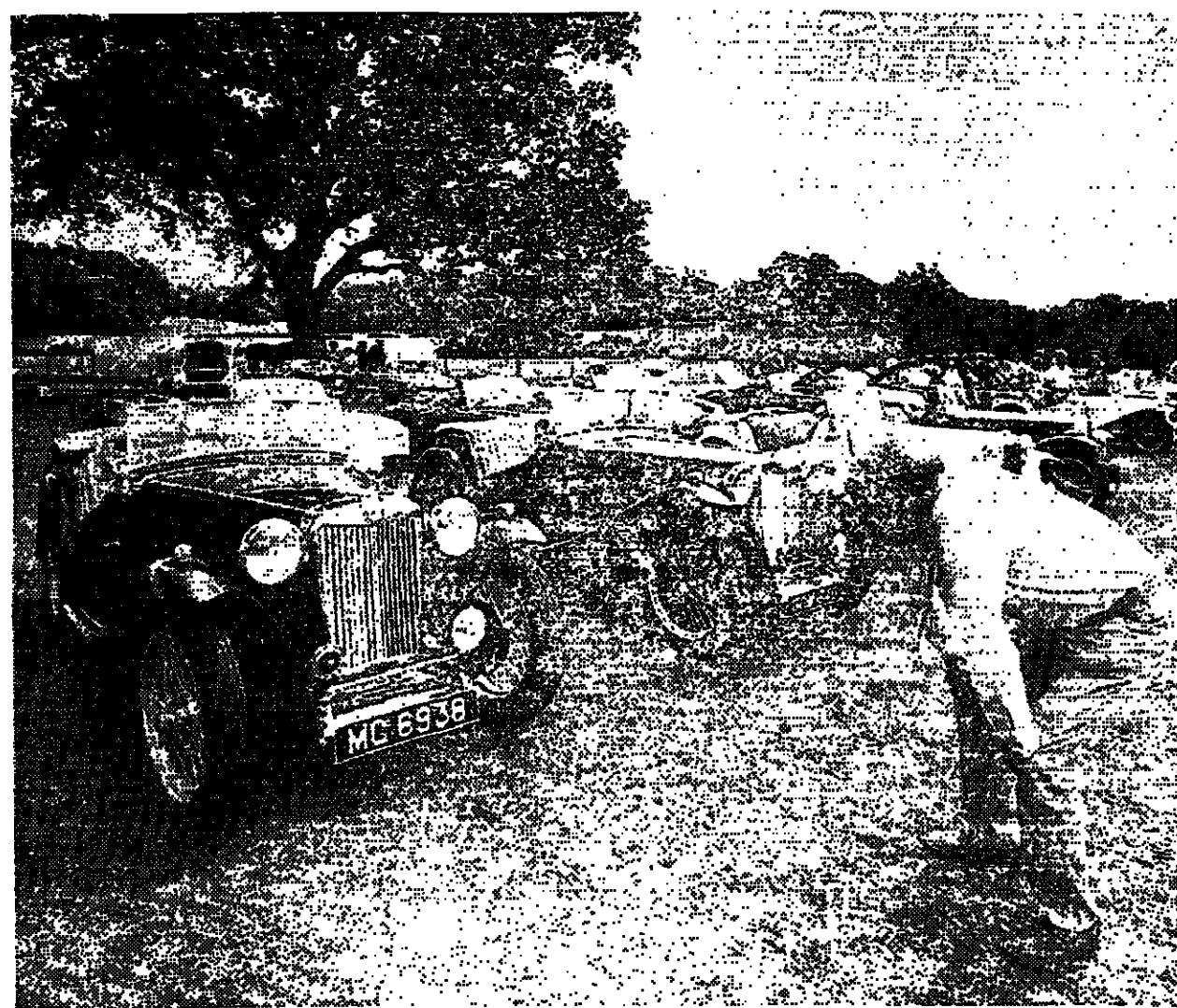
She added: "When the current controversy has settled, people will be more willing to listen to what everybody has to say. Department of Health and Social Security guidelines are perfectly good - if they are followed."

Dr Roberts suggested parents should be consulted. She was talking after the recording of a Yorkshire Television programme screened last night.

Millions of viewers heard her disclose that there is no medical evidence of abuse in half the children she sees.

"The medical evidence is only one facet. It's not just a matter of looking at the child, making a snap diagnosis and jumping to a conclusion."

"The child rarely lies about the problem and it depends very much on the skill, training and experience of the doctor", Dr Roberts told viewers of *The Jimmy Young Television Programme*.



Two cars drawing admiration at the MG Car Club's silver jubilee parade at Beaulieu yesterday (Photograph: John Rogers).

Pooh country fights to stop test rig

The board of conservators of Ashdown Forest is leading a campaign to stop British Petroleum from setting up a test rig near Gills Lap, immortalized as Galleon's Lap in A A Milne's tales of *Winnie the Pooh*.

An application by BP for permission to drill at Cobbers Farm is to be considered on September 16 by East Sussex County Council.

The council's intention to make the 6,400-acre forest a no-go area for oilmen was overruled by the Secretary of

State for the Environment last month.

The forest land is the largest open air recreation space of predominantly heather and bracken-covered hills, south of London. It is visited annually by more than a million picnickers, ramblers and horse riders.

Mr Christopher Robin Milne, aged 65, who lives in Devon, and was the inspiration for his father's famous stories for children, is supporting the conservators' objections.

The site of BP's proposed

borehole is not far from Pooh Bridge where Christopher Robin played Pooh Sticks with Pooh Bear, and the former home of the author.

BP has said the site will be well screened.

Visitors to the north Devon seaside village of Clovelly, renowned for its steep cobbled main street and harbour, face an entrance fee of 50p a head. Clovelly Estates, which owns the land and the 80 properties, says the money is needed for upkeep. It would charge people rather than the space their cars take up.

Zoo refuses to pay £2,000 owl ransom

London zoo has refused to pay a £2,000 ransom for the return of four rare owls stolen from their enclosure last Thursday.

A zoo spokesman said now that it was clear the ransom would not be paid he was afraid the birds would be freed to die in the wild. But much as the society was concerned for the birds it would set a precedent to pay for their return.

Scotland Yard said there was no trace of the birds, which are worth about £1,000.

Portfolio Money for home and holidays

Three readers shared Saturday's weekly prize of £8,000.

Mr Philip Everitt, an airline pilot from Taplow, near Maidenhead in Berkshire, and his wife, Carol, have already been out looking for a new dining room suite to buy with their prize.

They plan to spend the remainder on house alterations.

Mr Everitt, aged 35, has been a reader of *The Times* for two years since he switched from the *Daily Telegraph*.

Mrs Elizabeth Owen, from Dulwich in south-east London, has not yet decided how she will spend her £2,666.66.

Mrs Owen, aged 62, works part time at a post office.

"It is very welcome because my son, Nicolas, married in July", she said. Mrs Owen and her husband, Ivor, have read *The Times* for 32 years.

Mr Philip Brown, a freelance mathematics tutor, of Finchley, north London, plans to use his winnings for a trip abroad and then save the rest.

There was no winner of Saturday's daily prize, which doubles today's money to £8,000.

Readers who wish to play Portfolio Gold can obtain a card by sending a stamped addressed envelope to:

Portfolio Gold,
The Times,
Blackburn,
BB1 6AJ.

Sex attack

Detectives in the St Paul's district of Bristol were last night hunting a man who forced a girl aged 20 into his van and sexually attacked her. When she tried to flee after the attack he drove his van at her and ran her down. She is recovering in hospital.

WHO SUPPLIED COCA-COLA WITH THE REAL THING?

When the new Job Training Scheme was launched, one of the first companies to take part was Canvermoor, a subsidiary of Coca-Cola & Schweppes Beverages.

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HELPING YOU BRIDGE THE SKILLS GAP

ACTION FOR JOBS

Glory returns to the Twelfth

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

Prospects for the grouse shooting season, which begins on Wednesday - the Glorious Twelfth - are the best for many years, according to the Game Conservancy Trust.

Experts believe that the precipitous decline in the numbers of red grouse which began in the mid-1970s, may have been reversed although they are far from complacent.

Dr Peter Hudson, head of the conservancy's grouse research project, claims that numbers are up by as much as 80 per cent in some parts of Scotland, and by about 30 per cent in northern England where they were, in any case, higher.

The reasons for the decline are thought to have been connected with the loss of

heather moorland to sheep grazing, and with the encroachment of commercial forestry which provides cover for predators.

The decline has been self-perpetuating to the extent that many owners have abandoned moors, which no longer provide satisfactory sport and sold them to the highest bidder, usually a forestry company.

Another big problem is bracken, which is taking over from heather in many areas. An article in the latest issue of *Farmers Weekly* calls for measures to halt the growth before it becomes out of control, and attributes it to lower standards of upland farm management as economic pressures have forced cattle off the hills.

The improvement in grouse numbers this year is attributed to a fine spring and to more widespread adoption of the conservancy's recommendations on management techniques and advances in the treatment of parasitic diseases.

However prospects this year for other gamebird species are less encouraging. Mr Richard Van Oss, director of the conservancy, says that the cold, wet weather in June and July put paid to hopes of the best season for many years for pheasant and partridge, an observation confirmed by comments from farmers taking part in *The Times* crop survey, published today on page 5.

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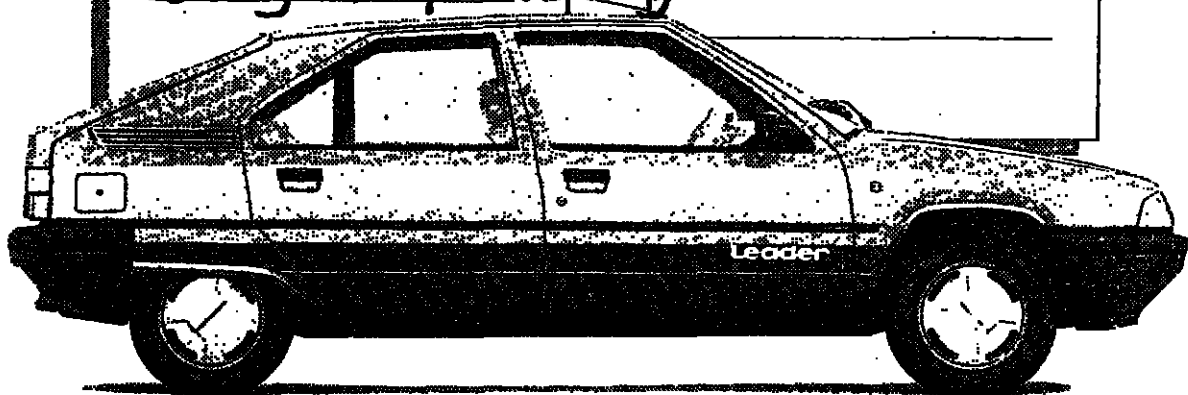
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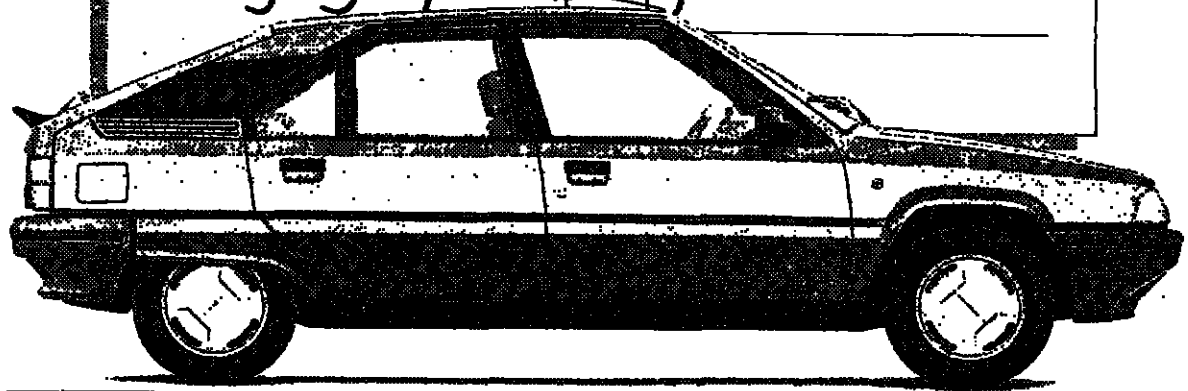
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Barristers new code of conduct likely to cause fierce debate

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Barristers who choose not to wear wigs and gowns in court will no longer be liable for disciplinary proceedings as a result of a radical overhaul of the profession's code of conduct by the Bar Council.

The revised draft code, now with the profession for consultation, contains a number of controversial proposals and is likely to arouse fierce debate when it comes before a special meeting of the Bar next spring.

Barristers' new professional rules will no longer stipulate that "wigs shall be worn at all times" and that barristers must wear dark clothes and gowns. Instead they will be advised they should "dress in a manner which is appropriate for appearance in court and which will be unobtrusive and compatible with the wearing of robes."

In addition barristers face wider disciplinary sanctions including a penalty of a fine for lesser offences and will for the first time be permitted a limited degree of advertising.

Sets of chambers will be allowed to adopt "pursuing" arrangements, enabling them to pool fees and draw fixed salaries as practised by Lord Gifford QC's radical set of chambers in Wellington Street.

The new regulations will also be reinforced by codes of good practice on the running of chambers which aim to eliminate race and sex discrimination when seats are offered to barristers, and to ensure that chambers are run efficiently in the way of modern offices, and in line with good industrial relations practice.

Breaches of these codes will

be taken into account in any disciplinary hearings.

A key aspect of the new code is the greater recognition given for the first time to more than 5,000 barristers employed in commerce, industry and local government.

Bar leaders are anxious they should be seen as a part of the profession, although their work is different from their 5,500 practising colleagues, and that they should no longer be regarded as "second class citizens".

The draft code foreshadows any change the Government may make to enable employed lawyers to do work for the public and also the possibility of such barristers being able to brief counsel direct, and not go through a solicitor as they must do now.

Such changes are certain to draw opposition from the Law Society, which represents solicitors.

One senior Bar Council member, Mr Henry Brooke, QC, said: "The view of the Bar is that there should be more direct access by employed barristers to practising counsel."

But the Bar will not introduce any rules allowing direct access in advance of the final report from the Maro committee now sitting on the future of the legal profession, he said.

The code's far reaching changes come about after a year's detailed overhaul of the profession's rules of conduct and are aimed at bringing it into line with modern needs.

But Bar leaders are at pains to point out that it is a question of "one step at a time".

In spite of the changes on dress, the code is not aiming to carry the profession at a stroke

from the eighteenth century to the twenty-first.

In spite of strongly held views that the time has come to take off wigs altogether in the commercial court and other civil courts, wigs are expected to remain as the "appropriate" form of dress, at least for the time being.

One Bar leader said: "Although it is no longer spelt out as such, wigs will still be regarded as appropriate dress by most judges."

"But we feel it is important that this should be a code of conduct, and not a dress manual. It is inappropriate for a professional man or woman to be told in rules whether he should wear a waistcoat or how long his hair should be."

So far the draft code on advertising only permits barristers to include an entry in a legal directory.

But this is one controversial area expected to prompt fierce debate. There will be strong pressure for the Bar Council to further relax the rules enabling barristers to advertise their services at least in legal journals, so solicitors (and through them the public) know who offers what expertise.

The new range of disciplinary measures will enable the Bar Council to deal with lesser complaints against barristers in a summary manner, on paper, without invoking the full disciplinary machinery.

Mr Brooke said: "At present we have to use a sledgehammer to crack a walnut."

There is expected to be a new penalty of a fine, as well as the already-publicised arbitration procedure under which clients who have suffered small losses through a barrister's negligence could obtain compensation.

Princess for parks festival

By Andrew Morgan

The biggest celebration of the national parks in England and Wales since the Peak District became the first designated area in 1950 will be held next month at Chatsworth House, Derbyshire.

The event, called the Festival of National Parks, is the climax to a week of activity promoting the 10 parks in England and Wales.

The Princess of Wales will attend the occasion on September 20, which is part of this year's Watch over the National Parks campaign, organized by the Countryside Commission and the parks.

Miss Amanda Nobbs, secretary of the Council for National Parks, said the festival would promote the message that conservation was not about mothballing national parks or constant opposition to progress.

She said: "There is a place for new practices, like improved farming techniques, in all the parks, so long as the environment is put first. The Chatsworth festival will show conservation as enjoyment and not opposing all and everything."

"National parks are the best of the countryside. We hope as many people as possible will come to Chatsworth and be moved to go out and explore this wonderful heritage."

Several ministers will also attend the event at Chatsworth, the home of the Duke of Devonshire, where there will be sheepdog trials, a hot-air balloon rally, as well as displays of dry stone walling, fly fishing and wood turning.

In the week before the festival, enthusiasts from the

park areas and the Broads Authority will set off on bicycles, horseback and foot to attend rallies at points on their route to Chatsworth.

The Watch over the National Parks campaign was launched in 1985 to increase public awareness of the areas designated for their outstanding natural beauty.

One aim, seen as vital, is to highlight the need for protection in the face of the pressures of afforestation, quarrying, military training and tourist developments.

Mr Brian Redhead, president of the Council for National Parks, added: "Conservation is not a killjoy exercise, quite the opposite. It is inspired by the knowledge that only by enhancing the natural beauty of the parks will we ensure there is something in the future to enjoy."



A British Transport policeman gives chase to young vandals (above left) while (top) a large chunk of debris which has been seen lying across the railway track is removed. Above right, the officer catches his culprit (Photographs: Philip Dunn).

Undercover trains fight rail vandals

By Mark Ellis

Bomb Alley looks like any other stretch of railway in a deep cutting, with rubbish strewn across the lines, but the name brings fear to guards and train drivers.

Guards on goods trains have been known to hide in their toolboxes in the brakevan carriages rather than face the missiles hurled from bridges and embankments on this short stretch in the West Midlands.

To combat the vandals, British Transport Police and British Rail run special, but ostensibly ordinary-looking trains, codenamed "Q" trains, with policemen poised to catch offenders by the scruff of the neck as well as on video film.

School holidays are the peak times for vandalism and trespass on the lines and since the "Q" trains began regular patrols throughout the Midlands last year more than several hundred children have been caught and cautioned and the more serious cases taken to court.

In the Midlands alone sev-

eral children were killed or maimed while playing on railways last year and within the past two months there have been serious consequences for young passengers.

Two weeks ago a girl aged 12 suffered a fractured skull when a stone was thrown through an open window as she travelled with her mother through a suburban station near Birmingham.

A month earlier a boy, also aged 12, was hit in the eye by a stone hurled at a train near Sandwell and Dudley station and surgeons feared he would lose the sight of the damaged eye.

Against this background of injuries to passengers and train crews, the "Q" train slipped out of Birmingham's New Street station last week for several hours of random travel throughout the Midlands last year more than several hundred children have been caught and cautioned and the more serious cases taken to court.

Chief Insp Paul Parker, of British Transport Police, who

is in charge of policing most of the Midlands rail network, said: "They usually come out to train spot, but they get bored and then play on the tracks, throw missiles or take potshots at trains with air rifles."

Within minutes of leaving the station the train was passing through industrial wasteland, once the prosperous base of Birmingham and the Black Country, but which now attracts only glue-sniffers and vandals.

The first phase of the day came after only half an hour when boys were seen playing on the line as the train passed under the M5-M6 interchange.

Three uniformed policemen scrambled down a steep embankment but failed to catch up with the teenagers who disappeared into the distance after sprinting across the main Birmingham-London line.

Uniformed officers are used for the "Q" runs, although

plainclothes police are deployed in other parts of the country, such as Liverpool, and to blackspots such as railway bridges close to schools in the Midlands.

All children caught are seen later in the presence of their parents, and in most cases a stern talking off and a caution have the desired effects.

In Bomb Alley, between Rycroft and Bloxwich, the train shuddered as it went over a stone placed on the track, which concentrated minds even more on the front line - the cutting's horizon.

Fortunately, it went without incident, but as Mr Joe Barnett, aged 58, a British Rail guard who has worked on the route for 18 years, said: "Its name is certainly justified."

"A driver had a stone dropped on him from a bridge near here 12 months ago and he will never work again. Without more of these runs I'm sure there would be more like him. Eventually someone will be killed."

Fixed fines being used instead of cautions

By Daniel Ward
Motor Industry Correspondent

Police are using the recently introduced fixed penalty tickets to fine thousands of drivers who previously would have escaped with warning for minor misdemeanours.

As a result the scheme has failed to reduce the number of motoring summonses dealt with by magistrates' courts, although this was the key reason for the introduction of fixed penalty tickets last October.

In Greater Manchester, more than twice as many motorists are being fined £24 and having their licences endorsed, mainly for speeding, under the fixed penalty system than under the previous system.

The police issued 10,000 fixed penalty tickets for offences carrying an endorsement in the first six months of 1987, yet in this period the number of summonses dealt with by magistrates' courts fell by only 513 to 7,126.

The number of fixed penalty tickets for non-endorsable offences, such as parking, jumped by 55 per cent to 130,000 in the first six months of 1987 compared with the same period in 1986 when only traffic wardens handled the fixed £12 fines.

In the Thames Valley area there was a 32 per cent rise in the number of fixed penalty tickets issued for non-endorsable offences during January to June this year.

The Association of Chief Police Officers told chief constables last October that fixed penalty tickets should be issued only when previously a summons would have been made out and not when a verbal warning would have been given.

Manchester police defended the way in which its officers were enforcing the fixed penalties. Chief Insp Potts, responsible for Manchester's central ticket office, said: "We are enforcing the October 1986 Transport Act in the spirit in which it is intended."

"Though it is obvious the expected fall off in summonses hasn't materialized, I think the motorists is getting an excellent deal from the Transport Act."

The Association of Chief Police Officers is close to completing a six months' review of the fixed penalty scheme and declined to make an official comment, although no large changes are expected.

The Automobile Association said the new scheme had run fairly smoothly and attracted few complaints. However it would like to see no endorsement for minor speeding offences.

The Home Office has had to agree to requests from the justices' clerks to recruit 200 additional staff to handle the huge number of fixed penalty tickets.

The Times crop survey

Wet weather affects quality

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

Sharply conflicting assessments of the size and quality of this year's harvest are evident in the replies received by *The Times* from farmers taking part in the second of this year's three annual crop surveys.

Although cereal crops have clearly not suffered so badly as fruit from the rain and lack of sunshine, there are widespread reports of fields flattened by storms and of disease attributed to adverse conditions for pesticide spraying.

"The harvest will be late and trying", a Bedfordshire reader reports. "Wheats have been devastated by take-all and sharp eyespot, and at least a third is lost."

But a neighbour in the same county, who also complains of take-all and rain damage, still thinks that overall it will be a big harvest.

The main concern among farmers appears to be a prospective drop in prices. A Warwickshire reader says his crops are standing well and show no evidence of disease, but suggests that higher yields will barely compensate for falling values.

There is widespread confirmation that the Moulin variety of milling wheat, in which high hopes were placed, has been a near disaster. Several correspondents expect yields to be barely a quarter of what they expected.

The most gloomy reports tend to come from the normally most prolific areas of East Anglia and the East Midlands. "It is a very difficult report to make", a Cambridgeshire grower writes, adding like many others that an improvement in the weather is urgently needed.

"Much leaf, ear and stem disease", a colleague in the Isle of Ely says. Winter wheats are now ready to combine, but

losses could be heavy if wet weather persists.

An Essex correspondent describes the position as depressing, recording that one of the usually driest parts of Britain experienced nearly 11 inches of rain in June and July, compared with eight inches in the five months from January to May.

From Norfolk come reports of widespread fungal diseases and deteriorating quality as a result of the wet weather. "Unseasonable conditions in the eastern counties could have a significant effect on cereal output, it is suggested."

Although many fields present a picture of devastation, "lodging" as a result of wind and rain seems to be causing less worry than disease. "Although only very little has gone down so far, the appearance of all crops has altered drastically for the worse", one Norfolk grower says.

"Once again the pundits have forecast a bumper harvest too soon. Yields may turn out to be above average, but there is little prospect of good quality."

A farmer in Suffolk says that wheat could still turn out to be the best crop this year, but that it badly needs a dry, warm spell. He adds that the wet weather, combined with a big increase in predators such as magpies, has been disastrous for young pheasants and partridges.

"This could be the worst farming year for a long while", another Suffolk man surmises. A near neighbour suggests that in some areas yields could be down to about one tonne an acre, which by East Anglian standards would be extraordinary.

A Hampshire grower reports that spring oats and barley have done well, but that he has never seen wheat looking so sick. In Kent

incessant rain during the latter half of July prevented harvesting, and one reader reports that all his oilseed rape and winter barley have turned black.

A Leicestershire man reports the worst weed problems for years, and suggests that too many farmers have relied too heavily on chemicals and neglected traditional cultivation. A neighbour says that wild oats are thriving, in spite of the high cost of spraying.

But not far away in Northamptonshire a correspondent describes barley and oilseed rape prospects as excellent, and a Nottinghamshire colleague says that all crops now look well, although in need of sunshine.

Away from the main arable regions, farmers appear to have had happier experiences. A Cornwall reader reports an abundant year for both cereals and grass, and a colleague in Devon describes it as overall a good growing season with few problems.

Similarly optimistic reports also come from Dorset, Gloucestershire and Avon, in spite of the widespread incidence of take-all. "Wheat looks really well", a Wiltshire grower writes. "A potentially very good crop", is the news from Durham.

In the Scottish borders a late harvest is expected, and a correspondent in Dumfries and Galloway observes that south-west Scotland has had the best of the summer weather. A Renfrew man describes it as "a phenomenal year of growth in both grass and cereals never experienced in previous years."

In spite of official warnings of possible potato blight, both potatoes and sugar beet appear to be in a healthy condition

● In the tables a 100 rating represents healthy conditions, full growth and freedom from injury.

Division 1	Wheat	Barley	Rape	Potato	S beet	Grass
Bedford	73	78	80	87	88	95
Cambridge	87	92	95	94	95	100
Essex	80	91	95	85	94	98
Hertford	87	92	97	84	94	92
Humberston	83	92	90	93	90	93
Lincolnshire	87	88	87	-	90	95
Norfolk	84	85	85	88	94	91
Suffolk	78	80	84	91	88	90
Averages	82	87	88	90	91	94
Division 2	Wheat	Barley	Rape	Potato	S beet	Grass
Buckinghamshire	96	95	96	98	-	96
Buckinghamshire	82	70	63	90	-	90
Hampshire	92	92	90	92	-	100
Leicestershire	88	89	74	92	-	92
Leicestershire	88	89	93	95	98	94
Northamptonshire	94	93	90	93	95	100
Northamptonshire	86	97	95	99	95	105
Nottinghamshire	86	87	92	96	-	95
Sussex	96	92	93	93	-	90
Warwick	88	89	93	95	-	96
Averages	90	89	88	94	96	96
Division 3	Wheat	Barley	Rape	Potato	S beet	Grass
Cheshire	94	98	95	93	100	98
Derbyshire	98	91	100	90	-	98
Dorset	96	91	87	98	-	98
Gloucestershire	88	91	87	98	-	96
Gloucestershire	86	85	85	91	90	92
Hampshire	88	92	94	94	91	95
Somerset	86	88	93	91	-	87
Wiltshire	91	92	91	99	-	95
Averages	89	90	92	93	94	93
Division 4	Wheat	Barley	Rape	Potato	S beet	Grass
Cheshire	95	98	-	100	92	98
Cumbria	95	92	90	94	-	98
Derbyshire	96	96	90	94	-	97
Lancashire	92	98	91	96	-	97
Lancashire	90	90	87	87	95	100
Northumbria	90	88	85	-	-	96
Staffordshire	95	95	90	93	99	95
Yorkshire	88	88	86	84	82	87
Averages	93	93	88	93	92	96
English Average	Wheat	Barley	Rape	Potato	S beet	Grass
Averages	89	90	89	93	93	95
SCOTLAND	Wheat	Barley	Rape	Potato	S beet	Grass
Borders	90	88	95	95	-	100
Central	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dumfries & Galloway	95	95	-	98	-	100
Highland	97	95	98	96	-	96
Orkney	85	83	90	88	-	100
Shetland	98	97	99	98	-	98
Strathclyde	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tayside	95	95	90	95	-	98
Western Isles	89	92	89	91	-	99
Average	93	92	94	94	-	99
WALES	Wheat	Barley	Rape	Potato	S beet	Grass
Clyd	-	-	-	-	-	98
Dyfed	92	96	-	98	-	88
Gwynedd	85	80	80	90	-	100
Mid Glamorgan	80	80	-	-	-	93
Powys	95	90	90	85	-	100
South Glamorgan	-	-	-	-	-	-
West Glamorgan	-	-	-	-	-	-
Average	88	88	85	91	-	96
Great Britain Avg	Wheat	Barley	Rape	Potato	S beet	Grass
Averages	89	90	89	93	93	95

Motorway repairs

Fall in road work tenders

By Rodney Cowton, Transport Correspondent

Although government money for road repairs by local authorities was increased this year, the evidence points to fewer repairs being planned.

The state of maintenance of many council-controlled roads has been criticized by the Institution of Civil Engineers, the Consumers Association and others.

Government cash set aside for local authority road maintenance was increased by 14 per cent for the current financial year.

But the Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors, the British Road Federation and suppliers of materials for road building all report reductions since April in the number of invitations to tender for maintenance work, or in orders placed for road-surfacing materials.

The British Road Federation said yesterday that invitations to tender for local authority road works since April were well down compared with both the same period of 1986 and the first three months of 1987.

● The Department of Transport is studying ways to find defects in Britain's 1,500 miles of motorway crash barriers.

A Southampton company, Acoustic Technology, has been asked to develop a technique to detect barriers which are set in too little concrete. Such barriers are far more likely to collapse when they are struck by traffic.

Major motorway roadworks until next Monday:

London and the South-east

M11 London: new road layout and reconstruction work continues at Redbridge roundabout.

M11 Essex: repair work. Southbound lane closures between junctions 7 and 6 (Harlow/M25).

M23 Surrey: gantry work with

lane closures southbound between junctions 7 and 8 near the Merstham interchange.

M25 Surrey: clockwise carriageway completely closed overnight between junctions 7 and 6 (M23 Merstham/Modstone) from 9pm to 6am today, tomorrow, Wednesday and Thursday.

M27 Hampshire: contraflow between junction 3 and 4 (M27/A33). Junction 5 (Stoneham interchange) lane restrictions underneath the motorway because of reshaping of roundabout.

M4 Berkshire: contraflow near M40 junction 14 and 15 (Hungerford/Swindon).

M40 Oxfordshire: contraflow between junctions 6 and 7 (Wallingford/Thame).

WORLD SUMMARY

García holds fire on state takeover

Lima — President García of Peru has withdrawn a controversial decree enforcing the temporary government administration of private finance institutions facing state expropriation, after four writs were issued last week to challenge the move (Michael Smith writes).

The President said that administration teams were to be withdrawn to "avoid staining this democratic process with a shroud of illegality", but that the decision did not change the Government's intention to expropriate more than 30 companies, for which congressional proceedings are in progress. When he made the announcement at a rally of the ruling American Popular Revolutionary Alliance in the Plaza de Armas here, the crowd of party faithful demanded he stood firm on state intervention.

The Government's retreat on the issue capped a week in which business lobbies and their political allies engineered a powerful campaign in the courts, Congress and the media to defend the right to private property and economic plurality, backed by crucial sectors of his middle-class supporters.

Pacifist goes free

Athens — Mr Michalis Marangakis, the first Greek conscientious objector to refuse Army service on other than religious grounds and was jailed for four years as a result, was unexpectedly set free at the weekend (Mario Modiano writes).

US-Russia swimmer

New York — Miss Lynne Cox, an American endurance swimmer, has braved frigid water to become the first person to swim across the Bering Strait separating Alaska from Siberia (Charles Bremner writes).

Soviet officials gave Miss Cox, aged 30, from California, a warm welcome when she emerged from the fog-shrouded sea on Friday on Big Diomedes island after a swim of two hours and 12 minutes. The water, frozen for most of the year, was 42 deg F. Miss Cox wore only a bathing suit and cap to make the 2.7-mile swim from Little Diomedes island. But she was better equipped than the average swimmer to withstand the cold because of a heavy layer of fat: she weighs more than 13 stone.

Second Odinga call



Nairobi — Mr Oginga Odinga, left, the former vice-president expelled in 1982 from Kenya's ruling party, KANU, has repeated his call to President Moi to restore a multi-party system or to allow him to take part in politics (Charles Harrison writes). He has written again to President Moi, having received no reply last month when he called the ending of the secret ballot for selecting poll candidates a negation of democracy.

Moscow tit-for-tat

Moscow — The Soviet Union has ordered three Zairean diplomats to leave the country by today in retaliation for the expulsion of three Soviet diplomats from Kinshasa at the end of last month. They had been accused of spying (Mary Dejevsky writes).

Funeral unites foes

Deir al-Qamar, Lebanon (Reuters) — Druze militiamen joined forces with traditional Christian foes yesterday to carry the Christian former Prime Minister of Lebanon, Mr Camille Chamoun, to his grave in his home town. The coffin was carried from the entrance of Deir al-Qamar, now controlled by Mr Walid Jumblatt, the Druze leader, as church bells rang out and mourners wailed.

Blind voyage aborted

Providence, Rhode Island (AP) — Mr Jim Dickson, a near-blind American sailor, is heading for Bermuda to seek repairs to his boat's autopilot and talking computer, a spokesman said yesterday. Mr Dickson, who has 30 per cent vision, set out to become the first blind person to sail solo across the Atlantic, but turned back on Friday after the equipment broke. He wants to continue his voyage to Plymouth but a final decision will not be made until he arrives in Bermuda. Early yesterday he was 360 miles north of the island.

Shah's son sees the democratic light

From Susan MacDonald, Paris

"It reminds me of the joke of the man looking for his keys which he dropped in the street at night," said Prince Reza Pahlavi. "His wife said, why are you looking under the street lamp when you dropped them over here? Because, said the husband, there's a light over here which makes looking easier." The eldest son of the late Shah of Iran sat back and smiled.

"I feel now that there is a light shining on me and people are looking my way, although they are not sure what they will find."

During a 48-hour stopover in Paris, Prince Reza appeared as a point of reference in the confusion surrounding the crisis in the Gulf and growing tension with Iran.

For the past eight years, since his father left Iran for good at the beginning of 1979 and died soon after, Prince Reza, aged 27, has been a shadowy background figure, whose apparent efforts at opposing the Khomeini regime have met with the same singular lack of success as those of other opposition groups.

"Time had to go by," he says, "for people to realize that the answer does not lie in Western capitals but in Iran — we have to go back to Iran."

(merchants), the ordinary people."

To achieve this, he claims that he has maintained a low profile while building up a network of support inside Iran and inside the regime itself.

"You don't know how many of those you see marching and beating their chests have secretly contacted us," he said. "The people beginning to support me now are those who had the most serious reservations about me eight years ago. My support in Iran is coming from those who served as Khomeini's base when he came to power, but are now disillusioned."

What can this good-looking, likeable young fellow, obviously being coached by older, more astute advisers, offer a people in the grip of an Islamic Revolution? The answer, apparently, is democracy. "The Constitution laid down by my grandfather, Reza Shah, in 1906 is the only democratic legal document left in Iran," he says.

"I would like all Iranian democratic forces — whether they be republican, monarchist, communist or religious, to fight to free Iran with this document as a basis. I don't care if the outcome is a republic rather than a constitutional monarchy, if that is what Iranians desire."

"However," he said, "I think they would prefer a monarchy, because that is where our traditions lie — they wouldn't care who was the constitutional monarch as

Reagan welcome hedged with warnings

From Michael Binyon, Washington

President Reagan welcomed the peace plan signed by five Central American leaders, but he served warning at the weekend that much needed to be done to make it work.

He said the United States would be as helpful as possible. But, in an indication of the grumbling dissatisfaction with a proposal the US believed it had no option but to accept, he added that this depended on American interests and "the interests of the Nicaraguan resistance who have already stated their readiness to take part in genuine negotiations for peace and democracy in Nicaragua".

Between the lines of Mr Reagan's statement, the Administration's strong doubts and scepticism showed

through. He said the US was encouraged by the emphasis on reconciliation, democracy and full respect for political and civil rights.

"The promise of this agreement can only be realized in its implementation. We look forward to the day when the commitments made in this agreement are part of everyday life in Central America," he remarked.

Washington sees a number of shortcomings in the agreement. Its main objection is that it depends on the good faith of Nicaragua in fulfilling its promises, and Mr Reagan has shown a visceral distrust of the Sandinista Government. The US objected to the original plan of President Arias of Costa Rica because it did not guarantee that a halt to US aid to the Contras would be matched by a simultaneous

restoration of political freedoms in Nicaragua.

Other doubts centre on the ability of the five leaders to enforce their plan on the rebels, especially in El Salvador. While the Contras are virtually dependent on US

Central American foreign ministers. There are fears here that the package may break down in trying to resolve what has so far been left vague.

Nevertheless, the US had little alternative but to embrace the plan and build on it.

Managua — President Ortega said on television yesterday that Nicaragua was withdrawing a World Court case against Costa Rica as a gesture of fraternity after the signing of the peace accord (Reuter reports). He added that he was also considering dropping charges against Honduras. Last August Nicaragua accused both countries of sheltering the Contras fighting the left-wing Sandinista Government.

aid, the leftist guerrillas in El Salvador and Guatemala are virtually self-supporting, little influenced by Nicaragua.

The US is already supporting the El Salvador Government to the tune of \$1.5 million (£1 million) a day.

Many of the details of the plan have been left to the

called for a comprehensive peace plan, it would have shown bad faith not to accept the one produced.

Secondly, the Iran-Contra affair has not only damaged President Reagan's standing in Central America, but has made many Democrats reluctant to support any renewal of Contra aid after September 30.

Many Democrats were sceptical of the Reagan plan, which they saw as a "ploy" to induce them to approve more aid. Unless Mr Reagan accepted the Guatemala plan, welcomed by leading Democrats, he would have lost the backing of key Democratic senators, and the US would have lost any potential to influence the peace package.

Finally there is a growing realization in the Administration that this plan offers the best and possibly last chance

for a negotiated solution. President Reagan, searching for agreements and achievements in his final year of office, has probably accepted that military pressure by the Contras will not in itself bring about the changes he wants in Nicaragua.

Mr Reagan is likely to face strong opposition, however, from conservatives who say the plan is a "bonanza" for the Nicaraguans. They are urging Mr Reagan not to abandon the Contras or to go soft on communism.

But Contra leaders themselves appear resigned to an immediate cut-off of US aid and the fact that they will not be allowed to negotiate in person with the Sandinista Government but will have to be represented by intermediaries.

US convoy is shadowed by Iranian warship

From Robert Fisk, Dubai

The American Navy's second vulnerable little convoy up the Gulf — three reflagged Kuwaiti oil tankers shepherded by two warships — edged up the coast of Saudi Arabia towards Kuwait last night through the narrow waterway in which the first US convoy came to grief only last month.

There were no initial reports of any times of the kind which badly damaged the US-flagged supertanker Bridgeton in the previous convoy, but American efforts to sneak through the Strait of Hormuz undetected in the early hours of Saturday morning were noticed almost at once by the Iranians.

Indeed, for much of the weekend, an Iranian Type T 42 frigate — made in Britain and almost identical to two of Britain's own frigates on the Armilla patrol in the Gulf — trailed along behind the US ships at a discreet but very obvious four miles distance, charting the convoy's course through the Strait and up past Dubai towards Bahrain.

For much of their voyage, the American ships sailed in line astern, led two miles in front by a US warship acting as picket but with the bulk of the 81,283-tonne tanker Sea Isle City leading the main body of the convoy and acting as a shield against mines not

only for the other two tankers but for three American warships as well.

When the Bridgeton was hit last month, her thin-skinned US frigate escorts sailed along behind her for protection, and this now seems to have been adopted as standard US convoy practice in the Gulf.

By dusk yesterday only two American warships could be seen accompanying the three tankers on the last stage of their voyage towards Kuwait where they were expected to arrive — depending on whether or not they maintained their 16-knot speed — either at midnight or at dawn today.

The frigates will not be allowed to enter Kuwait port and will probably return at once down the Gulf in the company of the partially damaged Bridgeton which is tied up at the oil loading terminal awaiting her outbound convoy.

The Americans had exerted considerable efforts on Friday night to persuade the Iranians that they were delaying their second convoy for a further week; officials in Washington had privately told journalists that they intended to wait for minesweeping helicopters to arrive in the Gulf from the United States before sending the three tankers to Kuwait.

Somali exercise ends

From Charles Harrison, Nairobi

A large US amphibious force has moved into the Indian Ocean after an important exercise on the coast of Somalia in co-operation with the Somali Army.

Simulated landings were made on the coast, backed by air support from the US fleet. Somali soldiers contested the landings in day and night exercises. American aircraft several times flew low over Mogadishu, the Somali capital, and US military and diplomatic representatives monitored practice attacks

against selected targets.

Although the week-long Exercise Bright Star was planned before the crisis arose in the Gulf, it was given additional significance by events there. The US has a defence agreement with Somalia, and enjoys access to the Soviet-built naval base at Berbera on the Gulf of Aden, which Moscow left in 1977 when Somalia invaded Ethiopia. South Yemen and Ethiopia have protested at the exercise, which they say has heightened tension in the Horn of Africa.

Challenge to Botha's South Africa



Black South African gold and coal miners chanting slogans and singing freedom songs at a meeting east of Johannesburg yesterday as they prepared for a countrywide strike that will confront the Government with a serious political challenge.

Men at the heart of the miners' strike

Minister who held his seat by a whisker

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg

The key government figure in the miners' strike is Mr Pieter Du Plessis, aged 52, who has been Minister of Manpower since 1983, although his background is agricultural rather than industrial. He has degrees in agriculture from the University of Pretoria.

Mr Du Plessis is regarded as one of the most loyal Cabinet supporters of President Botha's reformist policies, and one of the brightest.

Nine years after he entered Parliament, he was appointed a Deputy Minister of Finance; 18 months later he gained Cabinet rank as Minister of Agriculture. Last week he issued a warning that the Government would introduce legislation during the current parliamentary session to restore the "balance of power" between employers and employees and to bring order to the trade union movement.

In the white general election

Union chief influenced by Biko's thinking

Johannesburg — Mr Cyril Ramaphosa, the general secretary of the South African National Union of Mineworkers, who is a lawyer, regrets that he has never been a miner (Ray Kennedy writes).

At 35, he has been general secretary since the union's formation in 1982 and has seen its membership grow from about 6,000 to a claimed 200,000 — nearly half the total

black mine labour force. He was born in Soweto, the son of a retired policeman. His earliest involvement in politics was at the black University of the North and his first experience of prison was in 1974, when he was detained for 11 months without trial under the Terrorism Act for the part he played in a rally of support for the Mozambican Frelimo movement. Two years later, after the outbreak of the 1976 Soweto uprising, he was detained for a further six months without trial.

His philosophy was greatly influenced by Steve Biko, the Black Consciousness leader who died in detention in 1977, but he is a quiet-spoken man who normally commands considerable respect from his adversaries across the union negotiating table.

Besides campaigning for miners' wages he has worked for improvements in safety and the end of job discrimination and the migrant labour system.

California's motorist murderers

Riding shotgun with freeway cowboys

From Ivor Davis, Los Angeles

As a resident of southern California for more than 20 years, I have become accustomed to living on the edge of disaster — earthquakes, mudslides, brush fires, floods and all manner of natural calamity are part and parcel of the fabric of day-to-day life in the Golden State.

But since returning from holiday in Britain, I have become aware of a new and more ominous peril that seems to be causing a degree of hysteria among the 24 million residents of this huge state.

This latest menace is definitely man-made. I refer to the ever-growing catalogue of shootings — driver firing at driver — that have become daily events on the thousands of miles of freeway that criss-cross this hemisphere.

The incidents began in late

June and at the last count there had been more than 40 from Los Angeles to San Francisco, 300 miles to the north, leaving three people dead, several others seriously wounded and hundreds of thousands of motorists viewing their fellow drivers with alarm. Several suspects have been arrested.

Mr Daryl Gates, the Los Angeles chief of police, has urged his officers to wear bulletproof vests, and blames the freeway violence on a "road-warrior mentality". The "freeway cowboy" menace seems to be on the mind of everyone.

On Saturday the Mayor of Los Angeles, Mr Tom Bradley, launched a new "eye in the sky" task force of three dozen helicopters which will try to combat this rash of shootings.

"Our message to those who are inclined to use their guns

on the freeways of this community is 'we're going to get you'," he warned. This week California lawmakers will try to rush through new legislation which cracks down hard on any motorists who fire weapons.

Pop psychologists are having a field day. They are in great demand on rush-hour radio talk shows as motorists stuck on the freeway listen to them pontificating about the reasons behind this bizarre habit. Traffic is turning the people behind the wheel into monsters, say some.

The citizens of Los Angeles may not want to admit it, but their once-superb freeway system may simply be too small to cope with the volume of traffic. Tempers flare as motorists simply let off steam.

Drivers are reacting in many strange and novel ways. Many bumper stickers have ap-

peared warning "Protected by .357 Magnum". Others declare "No gun on board". I saw one man in a maroon Ford Mustang with a sign that noted "Come near me and I'll kill you".

I have received a call from the Cincinnati, Ohio, armoured firm of O'Garra, Hess and Eisenhardt. Would I care to turn my Cadillac into an armoured vehicle, complete with bulletproof windows — a worthwhile conversion guaranteed to withstand a .38 bullet or a blast from a 12-bore shotgun? They offered all manner of other protective devices at a bargain price of \$12,000 (£7,500). They'll even pick up my car and return it in 30 days.

I declined. I can't really afford it and, anyway, with a bit of luck, this whole deadly cycle will have run its horrendous course within a month.

Shadow of locusts hangs over Africa's crops

From Charles Harrison, Nairobi

The locust threat to food crops in Africa is increasing, with a heavy build-up of the desert species in parts of Ethiopia and Sudan menacing neighbouring countries, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization has reported.

Severe infestation of grasshoppers, which can also destroy large areas of crops, was reported from northern Nigeria and the Sahel region.

The FAO said that the breeding of desert locusts had been more widespread than was reported earlier, despite intensive control operations to poison the

immature swarms. Heavy rain and low cloud in northern Ethiopia had hindered aerial spraying and ground control measures. If these conditions continued, numerous swarms were likely next month.

Desert locusts have also been reported in large numbers from Chad, Niger, Mali and Mauritania. But the FAO is more hopeful that control operations in these countries will succeed in countering the main threat to food crops.

More than \$25 million in aid has been promised for the anti-locust campaign but further sums will be needed, according to the FAO. An international meeting is to

be held in Rome this month to seek further aid and report locust sightings.

● NAIROBI United Nations warnings of famine in a large area of northern Ethiopia are exaggerated, according to the Ethiopians (Charles Harrison writes). But they did not deny that lack of rain will produce serious food shortages in the next few months. Large parts of the country, including the Eritrean capital, Asmara, were also critically short of drinking water. The Ethiopian Relief and Rehabilitation Commission is sending teams to assess the food situation in the worst-hit areas.

UN food emperor seeks six more years of the good life

From Roger Boyes, Rome

"The Emperor" lives well. His private life takes him up to a plush office where, surrounded by valuable Oriental carpets, he can set about disposing of some of the \$300 million allocated to the world's poorest farmers.

Dr Edouard Saouma, a Lebanese Maronite Christian, has been the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization, a big-spendung United Nations agency, since 1975.

When he took up the job, the statutes said it was for a six-year term only. He had the rules changed, was re-elected for a second term, and now would like to do six years more. Some of the West's biggest donors - including Britain, the United States and Canada - are fiercely opposed, as is the Organization of African Unity.

The result is a messy election campaign in the run-up to voting in November, with mud flying thick and fast. Both Dr Saouma and his main rival, Mr Moise Mensah, from the West African state of Benin, are travelling the world in search of votes from the 158 members. In one corner of the ring is Dr Saouma. He is still the favourite for the \$200,000 (£128,000) a year job. A skilled bureaucrat, he has used the past 12 years to build strong ties with the developing world and established a regional network of FAO offices to contribute to an early warning system on food supplies.

He has also streamlined the clumsy organization and has centralized much of the control. Theoretically, that should make for speedy decision-making at a time of famine.

In fact, say his critics, it encourages his

autocratic manner and a concentration of too much power in his hands. Dr Saouma's personal style does little to dilute this impression. He expects to be addressed as "Your Excellency", and staff spring to their feet when he enters a room. He is most comfortable when entertaining heads of state, whom he regards as diplomatic equals - indeed some Western countries have ambassador-status representatives to the FAO headquarters in Rome - and he drives around the city with motorcycle escort.

The menu on these official occasions - and on big formal events such as World Food Day - needs to be studied: typically, steak in tarragon sauce, fine wines. These are the details one likes to know in Ethiopia.

It is little wonder that his staff, who work in a building erected by Mussolini to administer Abyssinia, call Dr Saouma "the Emperor" - behind his back, of course.

The US has, until recently, been reticent about criticizing Dr Saouma. Britain, too, did not want to take sides ostentatiously. But the West is now determined to get value for money from United Nations agencies.

The initial straw in the wind were the British and American withdrawals from Unesco, the educational, scientific and technical organization, in 1984 and 1985, citing both mismanagement and anti-Western bias.

The Unesco chief, Mr Amadou Mahtar Mbow, decided not to seek reelection for a third time. Later, the Geneva Group of Western donors decided to oppose third-term UN agency



Dr Saouma: cut through trammels of bureaucracy, but his cultivated autocratic image and power-broking has made his staff fearful and upset Western leaders.

heads, arguing there was too strong a temptation to create personal fiefdoms.

Dr Saouma will be the first target, but other clashes may lie ahead with Mr François Blanchard, in charge of the International Labour Organization since 1973 and whose current term expires in 1989, and Dr Halifan Mahler, at the helm of the World Health Organization for 14 years, whose term runs out in

1988. Too much pressure from Western donors can scare off support from the developing world - and that is important because the elections are strictly one country, one vote.

Much of the campaigning has been left to Canada. Among the dissenting voices from Ottawa is that of Mr Robert Salery, formerly Canada's representative to the FAO, who says that agency staff are

"terrified" of Dr Saouma. "The current Director-General runs a reign of terror. And staff cannot be expected to operate and to function effectively under those conditions."

Mr Eugene Whelan, the former Agriculture Minister in Ottawa, alleges: "Any similarity between what we know in a democratic country and the running of FAO is purely coincidental."

Enter Dr Saouma's rival, Mr Mensah, who is a professional agronomist with experience in the World Bank and the FAO. Since 1978 he has been helping to run IFAD, a small but efficient agriculture funding-bank in Rome.

The West (though by no means unanimously, as France continues to back Dr Saouma) sees a promising candidate in Mr Mensah. And the OAU has thrown its support behind the former Agriculture Minister from Benin.

His potted biography, presented in the manner of an election manifesto, says that his first taste of farming was as a nine-year-old growing beans in West Africa. Mr Mensah declares that he would make food programmes more accountable and ensure that less aid was corruptly or politically diverted. "Public opinion is now more demanding... it wants confirmation that the international institutions are an active and efficient channel."

In practical terms, that seems to mean fewer large-scale projects (much favoured by Dr Saouma), more projects that are strictly agriculture-based, a more democratic style of FAO leadership, and closer co-ordination between donors and recipients.

Mr Mensah is well ahead of the third

candidate for the job. Señor Gonzalo Bula Hoyos, a Colombian, who says of the incumbent: "He always travels with his cheque book and he can buy favours and votes simply by asking governments 'Which project do you want?'"

That highlights some of Mr Mensah's problems in this election fight. The campaigning has been under way all year and Dr Saouma is, like any government incumbent, in a good position to cultivate voters.

The support of a small country, such as Togo or Fiji, could cancel out what Britain or the US decide.

The Western donors are trying to fight back by using their financial clout - Washington has already cut its contributions, and Dr Saouma had to trim his budget last year by \$16 million - but this can all too easily backfire. The more the West slices his purse, the more indispensable Dr Saouma will look as a tried and competent administrator.

To talk to Dr Saouma's supporters from Asia and the Arab League, it is plain that any FAO failings are regarded either as Western malice or a fabled "crisis of multilateralism". For them, Dr Saouma is in the clear.

For the agency's dissidents, though, he will remain "the Emperor". The FAO is based near the ruins of the imperial palace of Augustus, and the irony is not lost on its 7,000 employees.

At its head there is a man who would be envied by the rulers of Ancient Rome: with a deliberate movement of his thumb, he can and often does decide over life and death in the middle of a famine. It is an awesome responsibility that has generated a murky election.

Moscow broadside for journal which broke glasnost limit

Mary Dejevsky, Moscow

A new Soviet journal which set out to test the limits of the officially proclaimed policy of glasnost (openness) has already run into trouble with the authorities.

Published for the first time last month, the journal, called *Glasnost*, was the subject of a vehement condemnation in an article in the Moscow evening paper, *Vechernyaya Moskva*, at the weekend.

Headed "People who shrink from the sidelines", the article said *Glasnost* breathed the fetid air of 10 to 15 years ago - the dissident groups, the samizdat publications and the "exposés of the truth". Although in its ignored the journal had expressed support for perestroika, or reconstruction, it had turned the whole thing upside down and started to harp on the old themes of violations of human rights, political prisoners, psychiatric

abuse and freedom to emigrate. It was as though it did not want to let in fresh air.

The editor of *Glasnost*, Mr Sergey Goryunov, has campaigned for human rights in the Soviet Union since the early 1970s.

But he insists that the new journal was not intended as a dissident publication. In an attempt to forestall such criticism, he set it up under the new legislation on co-operatives and private enterprise, which came into force in May, and says he wants to operate within the law.

But *Vechernyaya Moskva* claimed that Mr Goryunov and his fellow writers were stuck in their old ways of thinking. It quoted their journal as saying in one place that, although Stalin was dead, his cause was alive and well.

It went on to list Mr Goryunov's criminal con-

victions over the years, which it said included speculation in works of art on a grand scale. More recently, it said, he had regularly played host to foreign journalists and representatives of the Crimean Tatars, whose actions - the paper alleged - he had been instrumental in planning.

The extreme hostility towards Mr Goryunov and his journal displayed by *Vechernyaya Moskva* recall many of the published attacks on the dissident movement in the 1970s. It is possible that the *Vechernyaya Moskva* article is only an isolated attack. Journalists in Moscow are repeatedly reminded that nowadays the views of one writer or one paper do not necessarily express an official view. The virulence of the condemnation suggests, however, that Mr Goryunov's attempt to stay within the law may be short-lived.

Russia's unhappy campers

From Our Own Correspondent, Moscow

Almost every day in late July and August, the loudspeakers in the streets crackle into life and instruct the traffic to give way to a bus convoy. Within minutes a dozen school buses with red flags on the bonnet have rumbled past, full of children in the red scarves of the Communist Party's Young Pioneer organization going into the country for a three-week summer camp.

The ideal of the summer camp is a combination of healthy country air, team games and sing-songs round the fire, with some acting, painting or music, and a daily dose of party ideology. A few sought-after camps have academic activities like biology. Others have sports facilities.

The ideal camp, however, seems hard to find. After years of pronouncements pretending that everything in the Pioneer camp was lovely, dissenting voices can be heard. A recent article in the Communist Party's youth paper, *Komsomolskaya Pravda*, gave a graphic account of where camps went wrong.

Some of the camp leaders, it said, not only had no experience of organizing children,

but no talent for it either, with the result that the children ran amok, the weaker ones were bullied and disorder prevailed. At the other extreme, the paper said, some camp leaders had a compulsive desire to "train" the children - to have them marching in

Moscow - A Soviet newspaper yesterday said the cause of the fatal train crash near Rostov on Don last week was brake failure on the goods train (Mary Dejevsky writes). Trad quoted the driver's assistant as saying that he had checked the brakes several times along the route and they had been in perfect order. It was only on the approach to Kamensk that they failed. It said dozens of people had died in the crash.

lines twice a day or staging shows of singing, dancing and reciting, which were then graded by visiting assessors.

In another article, the same paper showed that summer holidays for the older brothers and sisters of the Young Pioneers could diverge even further from the ideal. Ever since the early days of the Revolution, there has been a

tradition of young people working voluntarily on building sites in their holidays.

It is considered ideologically desirable to "steel" people for life and draw them closer to the "real workers". In practice, it also provides temporary workers for unpopular projects in remote parts.

Now, as *Komsomolskaya Pravda* admitted, voluntary has become "voluntary-compulsory", and the ideological conviction which fired the earlier brigades had largely been lost. The main reason for spending the summer building railways in the depths of Siberia is the pay (which is good). The financial incentive can be converted by Communist Youth League officials into enthusiasm to work in the hardest posting, and everyone is content.

Until there is an accident. Last year, the paper said, 15 students were killed on summer work brigades and dozens were seriously injured. This year there had already been one fatality - a student had touched a live cable at an oil site in Tyumen.

A hallowed Soviet tradition may be on its way out.

Jews protest at Sabbath film shows



Thousands of ultra-Orthodox Jews facing riot police in Jerusalem yesterday afternoon at a demonstration against Israeli cinemas which the protesters accuse of desecrating the Sabbath by opening on Saturdays. Five people were arrested.

Libyan rout in Chad campaign

Habré retakes town lost for 15 years

By Susan MacDonald

People were celebrating in the streets of Ndjamena, the capital of Chad, yesterday at the news of the first victory within the northern Aozou Strip separating Chad from Libya.

President Habré's well-known military tactics appear to have paid off once again with the taking by his forces of the town of Aozou within the Strip and the routing of the Libyan troops who have been there for 15 years.

Mr Ahmed Allammi, in Paris, said yesterday that fighting had started on Saturday morning when Libyan troops attacked the recently recaptured

town of Bardai, but were driven off by Chad troops who then chased them into the Aozou Strip and took over the town of Aozou.

This simple explanation of events hides a strategy that has served President Habré well since the beginning of the year and allowed his highly mobile forces to mount fierce surprise attacks against the Libyan troops occupying the north of his country.

This latest battle was, like the others, well-planned. It is no coincidence that it comes a week after the end of this year's Organization of African Unity summit in Addis

Ababa, where President Habré appeared as the reasonable Chad head of state whose attempts at negotiating a solution to the Aozou Strip foundered.

The dispute over the Aozou Strip dates back to the Second World War when Italy and the Vichy Government in France signed a treaty altering the frontiers between their two colonies. The treaty was never ratified, but in 1973 Libya took advantage of the civil war in Chad and occupied the Aozou Strip, which is reported to be rich in minerals.

The Libyans have been there ever since and extended

their occupation southwards, until driven back by the Chad forces this year.

The French Government yesterday declined to comment on this latest offensive. France still has between 2,000 and 3,000 troops in Chad supporting the Habré regime. The French have been publicly reluctant to back the military offensives which, however, could not have been successful without their logistical help.

It now remains to be seen whether Libya will mount a counter-attack or whether it will gradually concede the defeat of its policies in Chad.

Two men sought over Tunis hotel bombings

Tunis (Reuters) - Tunisia yesterday published photographs of two Islamic fundamentalist militants who, it said, were wanted in connection with bombings at four hotels last week in which 12 British and Italian tourists and a Tunisian were injured. A statement accompanying the photographs, published by all Tunisia's newspapers, said the two were members of the Islamic Tendency Movement, an opposition political party

which campaigns for a return to strict Islamic religious observance.

The statement said the "implication (of the two men) in criminal acts has been proved". It added that members of a "terrorist network" responsible for the bombings had been arrested.

The two men being sought by police were named as Mr Hamadi Jebali, an engineer aged 38, a member of the party's executive, and Mr

Hassan Karkar, aged 39, a statistician in charge of economic affairs.

The weekly *Al Ittan* said a lawyer arrested last Tuesday, Mr Hedi Zemzemi, was also a member of the "terrorist network". The daily *La Presse* said a communiqué issued by the movement in Paris last week condemning the hotel bombings was written by Mr Habib Mokni who, the newspaper said, was associated with an employee at the

Iranian Embassy in Paris.

● Hostility ending: Diplomatic relations between Libya and Tunisia are likely to be restored in the near future, after two years of hostility (Paul Valley writes). The move will come, according to informed sources, with the signing of an agreement during the next few weeks to repay money owed to 40,000 Tunisian workers who were expelled by Colonel Gaddafi in the summer of 1985.

Jayewardene wins over his Prime Minister

From Vijitha Yapa, Colombo

Sri Lanka's Prime Minister, Mr Ranasinghe Premadasa, who boycotted the signing of the controversial Indo-Sri Lankan accord last month to end the island's ethnic conflict, has broken his silence.

Since he was out of the country when the accord was completed and because of his constant criticism of India, there has been speculation that he might resign or vote against the peace accord in Parliament.

Speaking out at the weekend, Mr Premadasa accepted that President Jayewardene has executive powers, but claimed that he could not enact new legislation without approval from Parliament. Any proposed new legislation must first be gazetted, he said, and citizens have the right to challenge it in the Supreme Court if they believe it violates the concept of the unitary state enshrined in the Constitution.

"Only the courts can say whether the legislation can be approved by a simple majority, a two-thirds majority or a national referendum," he said.

The time was ripe for a political solution, he said, since the two pre-conditions for such a solution laid down by the Government last April had been fulfilled. The conditions were that the Tamil guerrillas fighting for a separate state should lay down their arms and that India should end its support of the Tamil secessionists.

According to political observers here, the President has convinced Mr Premadasa that the accord was the only way out for Sri Lanka.

Meanwhile, the Sri Lankan Government has released 1,000 of the 5,400 Tamil guerrilla suspects held in custody by the authorities.

From Gavin Bell, Colombo

There is an unprecedented demand for grease and plastic sheeting in the northern plains and eastern coastal regions of Sri Lanka, where they are needed by Tamil guerrillas to preserve and conceal arms from Indian troops ordered to confiscate them.

A clandestine Sinhalese organization in southern tourist resorts is seizing hundreds of firearms in night raids on private homes.

Last week's Indo-Sri Lankan agreement on ending the island's Tamil conflict is being implemented by all parties and the ceasefire is holding. The State of Emergency, which has been in force since March 1983, is to be lifted in the troubled Northern and Eastern provinces by next Saturday.

But the olive branch planted by Mr Jayewardene and the Indian Prime Minister is fragile and may be uprooted at any moment by political dissent and ethnic tensions.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, the dominant separatist guerrilla organization, has been tamed for

Aftermath of the India-Sri Lanka accord on Tamil conflict

Wary guerrillas hide firearms from confiscating troops

the present, but it remains defiant. In a "farewell to arms" speech last week, Mr Velupillai Prabhakaran, its commander, said: "The time is not very far off when the monster of Sinhala racism will devour this agreement. I have unrelenting faith in the proposition that only a separate state of Tamil Eelam can offer a permanent solution."

Even allowing for Mr Prabhakaran's Marxist rhetoric, his 2,000 gunmen pose a serious threat to democratic steps towards an autonomous Tamil province in north and east Sri Lanka. He has made his first move by announcing that moderate Tamil political leaders would not be welcome if they returned from exile in southern India.

The Madras-based Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF) has welcomed the accord, noting that it comes close to its own proposals for resolving the conflict. The front wielded some political influence, with 17 seats in the Sri Lankan Parliament, until being forced to withdraw in 1983 for refusing to take an oath against separatism.

Mr Appapillai Amirthalingam, its leader, is now under a Liberation Tigers death sentence for "betraying" the Tamil people. He has accepted that TULF leaders who participate in an interim administration in the Tamil regions may be risking their lives. "The youths who have acquired a taste for weapons may tend to use them again... we will have to live with it. That is a price we have to pay."

Courage may not be enough. There are reports that the Tigers which ruthlessly crushed other guerrilla groups during the four-year civil war, has begun intimidating supporters of the accord and potential rivals in the provincial elections due to be held by the end of this year.

Ironically, the Tigers may also have to pay a price for their suppression of opponents in the past. Informal sources suspect these rival groups may now help Indian troops to find Tigers arms caches. This in turn is likely to lead to the "lamp-post treatment", in which suspected informers are shot and then hung in the streets.

Mr Jayewardene has made it clear

he will not tolerate opposition from within his ruling United National Party, and his threat to dissolve Parliament if it refuses to endorse the settlement should ensure approval of constitutional amendment.

Assuming elections to the Provincial Council for the north and east then take place, a formidable obstacle remains. The formula to link the Eastern province, where Sinhalese and Muslims are in the majority, with the overwhelmingly Tamil Northern province is unpopular on both sides. It would in effect create a sharply divided Tamil "homeland" constituting one-third of Sri Lanka.

The Tamils are angry because the merger, one of their basic demands, has been compromised by a policy of settling Sinhalese in the east, altering the demographic balance in their favour. Many Sinhalese are equally alarmed at the prospect of a Tamil-dominated council governing both Northern and Eastern provinces.

Aside from the central Tamil issue, Mr Jayewardene says his main worry is a violent campaign by the Janatha Vimukthi Perumna (JVP),

an outlawed left-wing group hostile to the Government in general and to the Indo-Sri Lankan accord in particular. Raiding military bases and private homes for weapons, shooting MPs and fire-bombing public offices are their trademarks. "They have to accept the settlement, otherwise they'll be locked up," the President says.

Sri Lankan troops released from duty in the north have been sent to quell the nascent revolt in the south. As alleged Tamil militants are released from detention under amnesty, the prisons are filling again rapidly with JVP suspects. The current estimate of arrests is 2,000 since the agreement was signed last Wednesday. The cycle of violent protest and repression has been merely relocated.

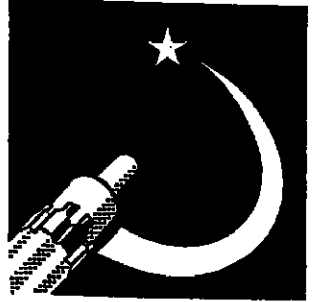
Sri Lanka's elderly patriarch has been given two years in which to nurture Mr Gandhi's olive branch. Mr Jayewardene's second term of office expires in 1989, when he will be aged 83, and the constitution does not permit a third term.

Leading article, page 11.

SPECTRUM

Russia's giant leap through space

HARVEST OF THE SUN



Part 1 The master plan

Britain's decision last week to run down its space programme, Keith Hindley reveals how Russia is surging ahead

One hundred years after the Russian revolution the West could be faced with the unthinkable: a Soviet commercial empire in space. In the face of Western complacency and

Last month Premier Mikhail Gorbachev promised the Russian people that within a century they would enjoy the highest standard of living of any nation in the world. In effect he was saying that in spite of all the crippling and ingrained inefficiencies which the new men in the Kremlin have inherited, the USSR would supplant the United States as the wealthiest nation on earth.

Western complacency might dismiss the prediction as a wild boast, comparable to Khrushchev's "We will bury you" back in the 1960s. But Gorbachev is not another Khrushchev, and has shown no disposition towards empty rhetoric. Speeches by Soviet leaders are always carefully weighed — even deceptively flat by Western standards.

And there is a way of making Gorbachev's claim look measured and feasible. Scattered through Soviet technical literature about its space programme, with no real attempt at concealment, are innumerable clues to an audacious long-term strategy to establish a commercial empire in space.

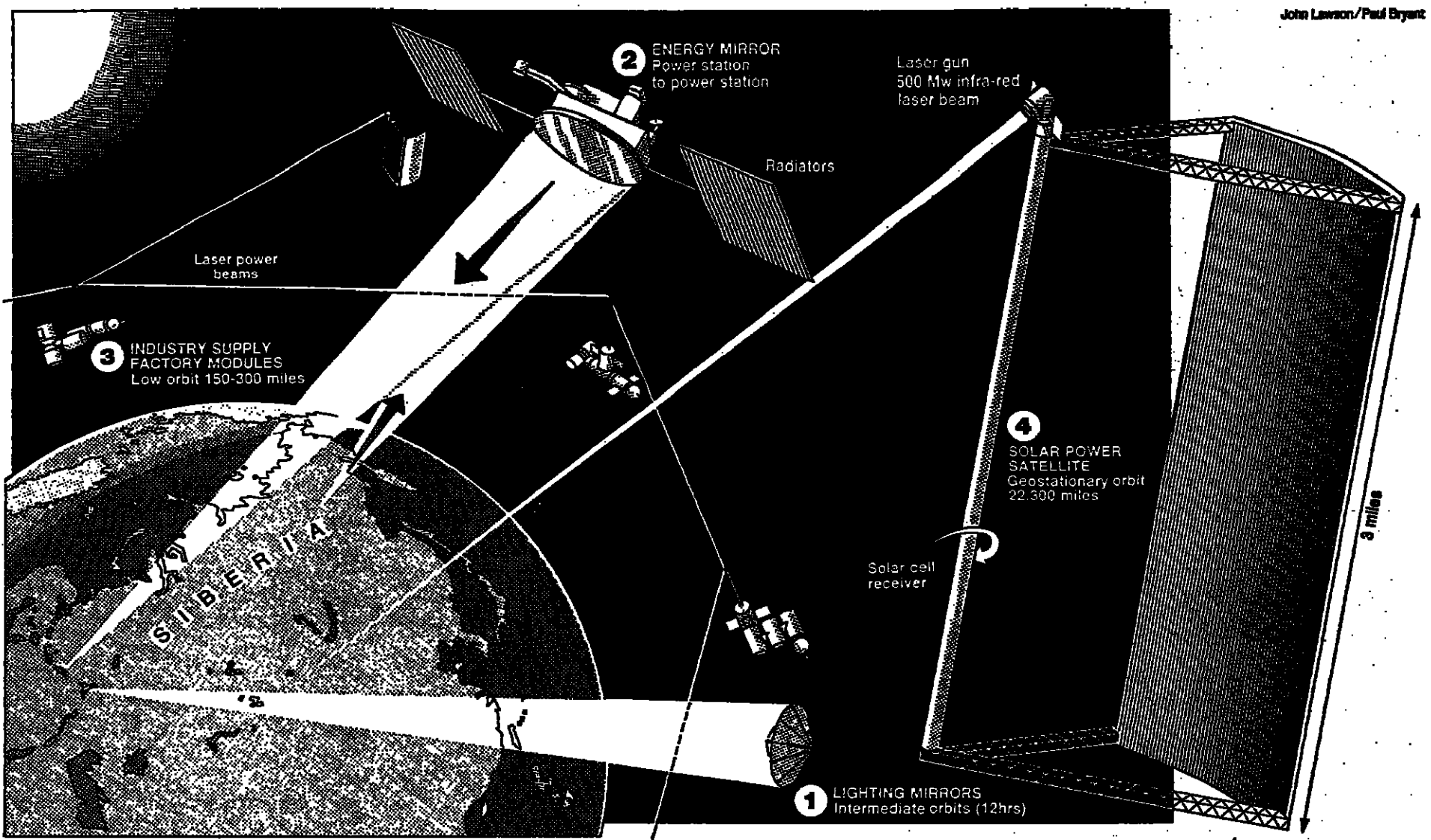
The evidence is breathtaking: Soviet plans to illuminate its cities and extend the harvesting time with sunlight deflected from giant mirrors in space; a system for transporting energy from one end of the Soviet Union to the other, or even to the rest of the world, using lasers and sub-

stations in space; and finally, and most audacious of all, an orbiting flotilla of solar power stations providing clean and cheap energy for mankind. A hundred years after the Russian revolution, Gorbachev's dream could come true: the final frontier conquered.

The Times has pieced together how the strategy was decided in 1975 and how the project has progressed since, from published Russian sources along with deduction and analysis by Commercial Space Technologies, Britain's leading space consultancy.

From such literature and from listening to Russian scientists at various space conferences, CST's Alan Bond, who originated the air-breathing rocket engine for the horizontal take-off and landing launcher (HOTOL), believes "a consistent picture" emerges. "Back in 1975, a decision was taken to change the direction of their space programme," Bond says. "The scientists were told that they would need to give good reasons to continue their work in space. The industrialization programme was their answer."

The plan makes Western approaches towards the exploitation of space look uncomfortably like a history of lurches between comic-book heroics and short-sighted penny-pinching. It highlights the folly of Britain's decision last week to cut back drastically on space research at the very moment when we



are involved in the development of HOTOL, the only space vehicle which offers a chance of reducing the Soviet lead in the near future.

It exposes the potentially historic significance of decisions on funding of Western space programmes that must be made in the coming months and years — decisions which are likely to be taken in the same spirit of complacency that has marked them since the days of President Kennedy.

The story of space technology has been the story of the hare and the tortoise. At the moment, the Western hare is half asleep, and the Soviet tortoise is forging far ahead towards a prize of incalculable value. Two crucial events mark the recent course of the race — the spectacular destruction of the shuttle Challenger in January last year, setting the US space programme back

many months, and the far less spectacular announcement in May this year that the Soviet Energia heavy-lift booster had been successfully tested for the first time.

The West has nothing to touch it, and will not have for at least 10 years. Energia's potential payload is so massive, and its launch costs for each ton shot into orbit are so low, that it marks the advent of the era of large-scale industrial exploitation of space.

While the Americans have preoccupied themselves with short-term prestige projects like the Moon programme, or experiments on the edge of fantasy like Star Wars, Russia has forged steadily ahead with a single-minded concentration on building up its capacity to use space as a wealth-creating resource.

"A new phase in space exploration has begun. Great work lies ahead," commented

Professor Valery Karashtin, a senior Energia engineer, earlier this month.

Westerners accustomed to treating Soviet technological predictions with scepticism usually cite the "glass-dome factor". There is a strong tradition, dating from the days of the revolution, for Soviet experts to peer into the future and see the Socialist millennium. But the privations and disappointments of a creaking Stalinist economic machine, and the bitter contrast between aspiration and achievement, often led scientists to dwell on grandiose schemes for securing peace and plenty at a stroke — glass domes over entire cities to keep them cosy in the winter, for example.

There may indeed be an element of wishful thinking in the further reaches of the predictions reported here, but it would be rash to dismiss the main thrust. The first stages of the plans are only 10 years away — so close that planning for such a high-technology project must have reached a firmly-formulated stage. The rocket exists, and has been tested. Its huge capacity and reusable form implies planned activity on an unprecedented scale. Much of the other technology central to the proposals — the laser and solar-cell technologies, for instance — is far advanced in development.

The Soviet record of solid achievement in space cannot be dismissed. With more than 60 cosmonauts, they have amassed 12 man-years of experience in orbit, two and a half times as much as the West. Their main workhorse launcher, the A-Class type which put Sputnik 1 into orbit, is still putting cosmonauts into space 30 years and more than 1,300 launches later. America treats space as an adventure. Russia has made it a routine. They have already lifted over 2,000 rockets into orbit and have launched a rocket every three to four days for the last 12 years. Last year they launched over 800 tonnes into orbit.

In the West, we are accustomed to think of space as a significant area for communications and surveillance, but otherwise as little more than a prestige and military playground. But its theoretical potential is immeasurable. The country which gains the ability to embark on large-scale development in space will have a cheap, pollution-free and inexhaustible source of industrial power.

There is only one effectively inexhaustible source of energy: our neighbourhood star, the Sun. Scientists realized



Soviet science star Academician Zhores Alferov

long ago that mirrors floating in space, or cells converting solar power to electricity, might give access to a power source which would remain undiminished even if all the oil wells and coal mines of the world had been exhausted. In the weightlessness of space, it is feasible to construct mirrors miles long, assembled with limited manpower and weighing only a few dozen tons, which could send a controlled beam of reflected sunlight down to the Earth's surface.

Soviet research indicates that a dozen space mirrors could light a city like Moscow to the level of street lighting. They could transform Russia's flagging agricultural activity by beaming down additional hours of sunlight on to northern farmlands at harvest time. The light could penetrate all but the densest cloud cover. It is estimated that a basic programme would cost \$20 billion and could be in place by the end of the century.

The next phase of Soviet plans would be to build space mirrors to bounce power beams thousands of miles across the USSR, to overcome the immense problems of transferring energy from the country's main reserves of oil, gas and coal in the far east to its centres of industry in its western parts. Over such distances, and in the severe Siberian climate, pipelines, pylon lines and freight railways represent a huge drain on national energy reserves.

Researchers began by attempting to harness microwave beams for transmitting raw energy in this way, but they have now settled on infra-red laser beams as a more effective system. A system of power reflection satellites would cost \$25 billion and could be in orbit by 1995-2005.

The third phase would be a network for distributing electric power around Earth orbit

This new cell places solar power stations at the very top of the list of power sources

for factories to tap into. Lasers, once again, would do the job, opening up vast opportunities for weightless manufacturing.

Initially the power would come from a ground-based power station, but it would be generated in space once solar power satellites came on-line. The Soviets believe a basic space power grid would again cost about \$25 billion, spent over the same period.

The fourth phase is the one with the highest potential of all. It is for full-scale solar-cell power stations in space, beaming hundreds of megawatts, derived from the radiance of solar rays undimmed by passing through the Earth's atmosphere, down to receiving stations.

Academician Vladimir Kotelnikov, chairman of Inter-cosmos, the Soviet international space office, said a few weeks ago that: "The USSR plans to orbit large-scale structures, including reflectors one kilometre across, to feed solar panels for use as power stations".

Just such a system has been developed by a group led by Academician Zhores Alferov at the Ioffe Physics Institute in Leningrad. A reflector concentrates sunlight by a factor of 1,000 to feed a strip of gallium aluminium arsenide solar cells, which convert sunlight to electricity with 27 per cent efficiency — twice the yield of the conventional silicon cell. The station would drive a laser generator transmitting the energy down to Earth.

A complete pilot station is now working on the ground at Soltise (literally "Sun") at the Solar Power Research Institute near Ashkhabad in Turkmenistan. "This new cell places solar power stations at the very top of the list of alternative power sources," Alferov said recently. "A 100-kilometre square of these cells could meet the present electricity demand for the whole Soviet Union."

The Energia rocket is an essential element in all such projects. A mere 40 launches could put the necessary hardware for a 500-Mw station

① One-mile diameter mirrors reflect sunlight to illuminate cities. A dozen would light Moscow

② Using a laser and a 30ft mirror, a Siberian power station feeds electricity to industry, bridging a continent in a split second

③ Electric power delivered from a solar-power satellite to orbiting factories along a chain of laser beams

④ A concave mirror reflects sunlight on to a receiver. Converted into a laser beam, 500Mw is fed down to industry

into orbit. The cost of a basic system would be about \$65 billion, and present estimates indicate that it could be in place and paying its way within 30 years. The initial investment would be enormous. But experts agree that the stations could pay their building and launching costs within three or four years. This is a rate of return three or four times better than that of a terrestrial power station. By the middle of the next century, with development costs long ago discounted, such a system could cost only a fraction of this; and the expense of operating it, with no moving parts and in a sterile environment, should be minimal.

Were such developments to prove feasible, the benefits would impinge on every facet of human activity. Today's dilemmas over industrial pollution and the dangers of nuclear power would become irrelevant. The effects on employment, leisure and quality of life would be incalculable.

The political consequences would be equally remarkable. It may seem far-fetched in the West today, when oil is in glut, but economists foresee a slow return to a seller's market in energy in the years ahead.

After the oil crisis of the early 1970s, the West's drive to develop alternative energy sources and economize on its use of resources lost much of its impetus, when it became apparent that the immediate emergency was over. The Russians carried on.

In a new world of expensive energy, a Soviet Union with a decisive lead in space energy technology, able to sell space power to favoured allies, would be in a commanding position. It would exercise a double political leverage based on a strong bargaining position in the energy market, as well as on its great power status.

All this may sound like science fiction to Western readers. But there is no doubt that it is taken very seriously in the Soviet Union. If the schemes come into being, the economic balance of power between East and West will be profoundly shifted. And the vehicle designed to provide the means of accomplishing them — the fundamental link on which all the rest depends — has already flown.

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TOMORROW

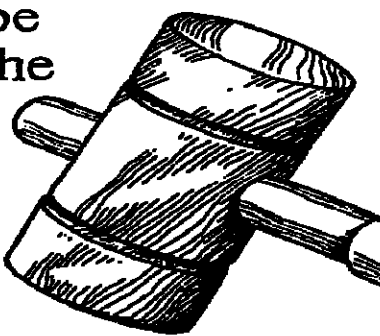
Means to an end: how the Energia rocket mapped out Russia's cheaper way to the stars

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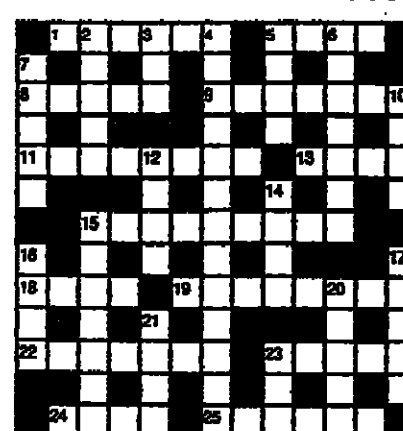
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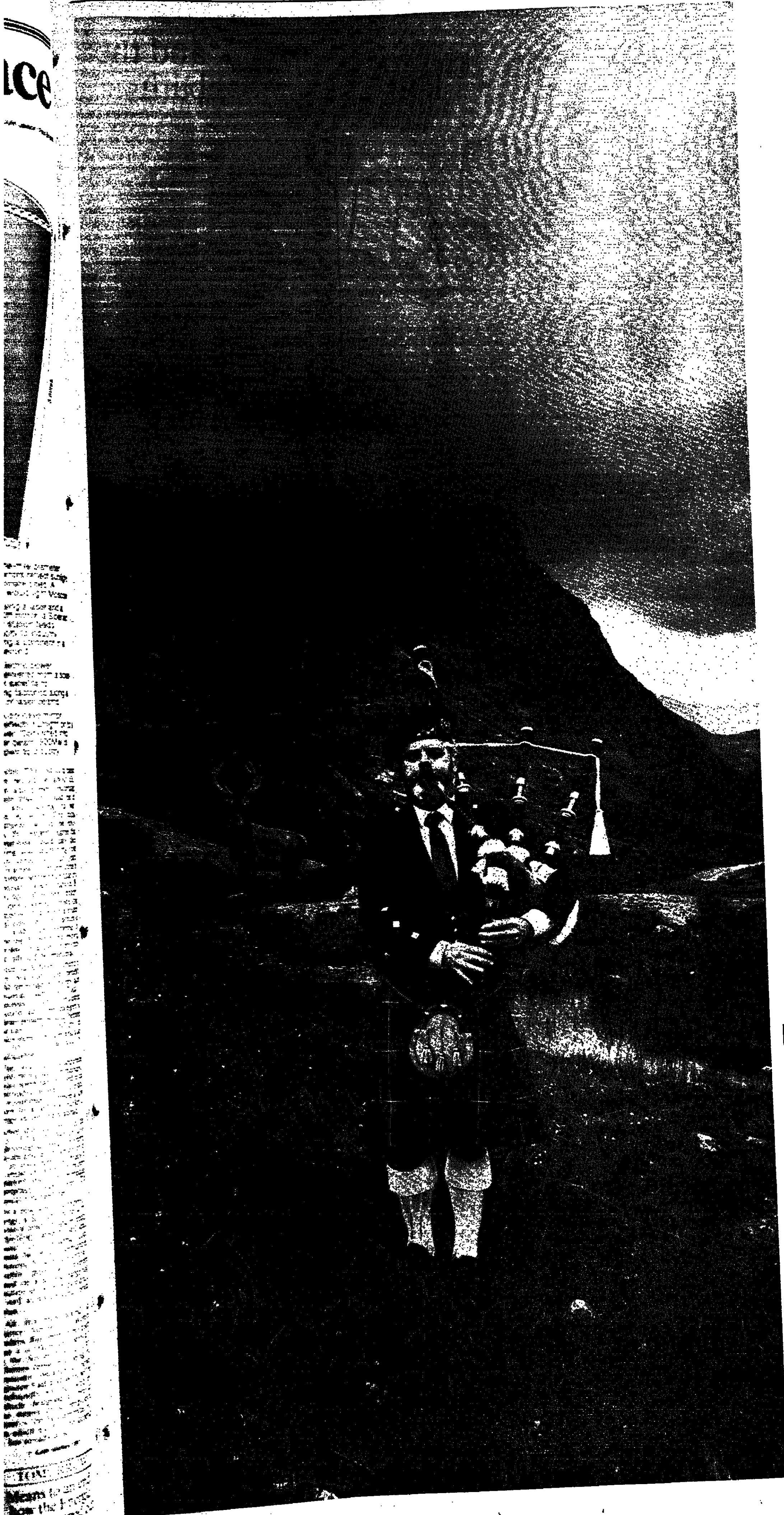
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ACROSS
1 School jacket (6)
2 Patient (4)
3 Hike (5)
4 Sanction (7)
5 Intrinsically (8)
6 Bargain (4)
7 Great Bear (4,5)
8 Cry of pain (4)
9 Memorable, dry, brown (8)
10 Sac-like dilations (7)
11 Gangway (5)
12 Worry (4)
13 Pardon (6)

DOWN
1 Lead (5)
2 Smash down (3)
3 Boat-like exercise (6,7)
4 Innermost part (4)
5 Nut gripper (7)
6 Seated, sedate (5)
7 Fish helmet (4)
8 Strangem (4)



14 Slightly open (4) 20 Fertile desert patch (5)
15 Dislike (7) 21 Fillage (4)
16 Task register (4) 22 Alphabet (1,1,1)
17 Daisy-like flower (5)



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Department of Church History,
King's College, Old Aberdeen.
August 8.

buried in the church-yard of St.
Magdalene, near the grave of
Louis XVI.

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Gandhi that should be possible.
The banks would take a loss on
Penzance, Cornwall.
August 5.

WELSH DIARY

Beelzebub in Bridgend

How strange to discover that my father's home town of Bridgend, in Mid Glamorgan, has been dubbed Sin City. Not long ago, Bridgend citizens woke up to see banners hoisted across the main shopping streets declaring "God has a case against this town." Soon after, a free newspaper, *The Cornerstone*, produced by Evangelical Christians, was dropped through all letter boxes. It carried bold headlines like "Shame on you, Bridgend". Does Satan's son walk the streets and enter the town's swinging and, as far as I know, respectable nightclubs - Flamingo Road, Shimmers, Crossways, Astons? My atheist informant says: "There's something in it. Satan himself wouldn't feel too safe going home late on Saturday night in Bridgend."

Alternative poet

American admirers and professors on their annual trip to Dylan Thomas's boat house at Laugharne should stop off first at Cardiff and have a dekkie, as the locals would say, at an exhibition in the Oriel Gallery. The gallery has focused on the Bulth Wells poet, T. Harris Jones, who once called himself "the poor man's Dylan Thomas". It is more than 20 years now since T.H. Jones was found drowned in a swimming pool in Australia. But he is continuing to gain a posthumous reputation. They even commissioned a statue of him, though why the sculptor, Ben Jones, elected to present him naked is a mystery. There the statue reclines, big, white and conspicuous, bang in the middle of Bulth Wells. Another mystery is: who, one dark night, vandalized the statue with hammer and tongs? The things critics do...

At the Fox and Hounds, two old men were having a fierce argument in Welsh. The barmaid whispered to this monoglot: "They're on about The Meaning of Life." I listened further, and identified some names, which revealed to me that they were talking about rugby.

King Llyr

Wales's most charismatic actor, Anthony Hopkins, at present impersonating King Lear at the National Theatre, has remarked sadly that he has played many roles, but never a Welshman. Didn't they teach him at Cowbridge Grammar School that King Lear is but an Anglicization of King Llyr? The original Lear may have had Irish connections, but he was an old tragic royal Welsh troupier just the same.

BARRY FANTONI



Heaven-bent

It's back. One of those summer boats that used to set out regularly from Glamorgan's Penarth pier for Somerset's Weston-super-Mare in the 1930s. The funnel would hoot and the holiday-makers, as if off to Botany Bay, would wave strenuously. Afterwards, the Treorchy Male Voice Choir would eye the females aboard, the courting couples, hand in sticky hands, and be fished out at the waves, and young parents would hang on to their tiny Shirley Temple tots sucking lollipops. The restored vessel is called the Balmoral, a dignified cognomen for the last sea-going paddle steamer in the world. One small boy, though, a certain Peter Williams of Portcaw, when asked if he would like to sail on the Balmoral to Devon replied: "I'm not ready yet, man." Why didn't he want to go? He had made the same mistake as Dr Ernest Jones, the Welsh psychoanalyst who, when a boy, also believed Heaven could be seen on a clear day across the Bristol Channel.

Media man

The concert to raise funds for the Ystalyfera Heritage Society was over. The pretty barmaid with the pretty first name of Delilah, who had sung Welsh songs so soulfully and plucked on her harp (made in Japan) so skillfully, left for Swansea. The rest of us retired to one of the Swansea Valley's re-upholstered hostilities. There we discovered a short, friendly man. "Haven't I seen your brother on TV, mum?" he challenged me. I smiled my millimetres. "I'm in the media, too," I continued, "only local, mind." "I hesitated. 'What?' I asked. 'Daily? Weekly?' He stared at me blankly. 'Oh no,' he said at last, 'I'm a newsgent.'"

Dannie Abse

Bernard Levin: the way we live now

The injudicious judges

Very well, then; I have now read all 382 pages of *Spycatcher*, "by" Peter Wright (Viking \$19.95), and I may as well start at the wrong end and raise, if only because I have not seen whether Wright now is, or always has been, a Soviet agent.

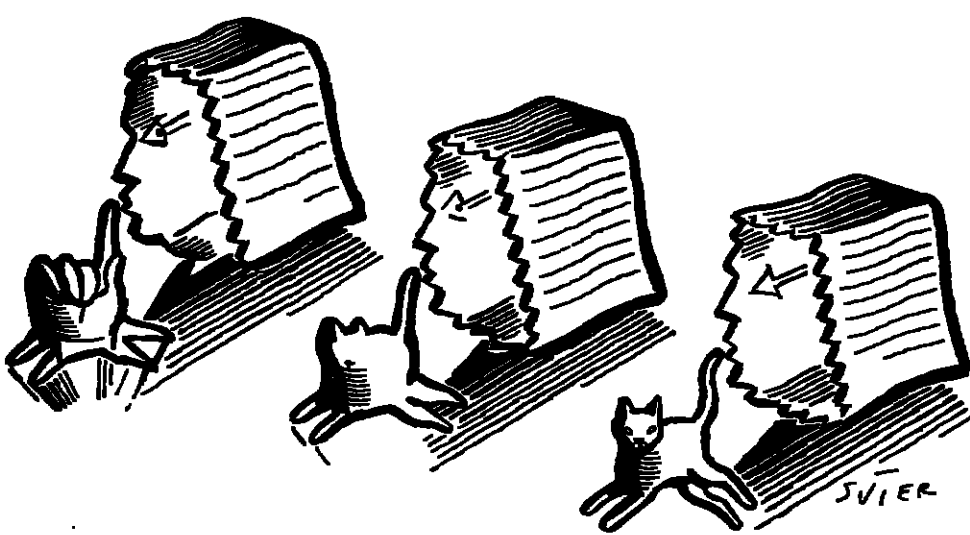
I raise the question not because I have anything that could be called direct evidence (in the nature of the business there could be no such evidence available to an outsider), but on the logical principle of *ex hypothesi*. The book has plainly been constructed to do the greatest possible damage to the intelligence services of Britain and, by extension, the United States and the West in general, and I have no doubt that it has succeeded triumphantly in that aim.

When a man does something that he knows must help our enemies greatly, it is not very unreasonable to conclude that that was what he intended to do. Wright has made no serious attempt to erect a public-interest defence; the well-titled ground of Sir Roger Hollis's suspected treachery has long been familiar, and so have the suspicions within the intelligence services that there were other traitors high up among them, but such matter is in effect self-contained, designed to show Wright as being a dedicated officer determined to root out the secret villains. There has been little attempt to present the book as the work of a patriotic citizen drawing attention to wrongs done in the name of national security, unless you count a general air of implausible concern about the alleged plot to smear Harold Wilson with scandal and thus prevent his re-election in 1974. In any case it is clear that the reason he refused to participate in the plot (if it existed) was not moral but financial. And, incidentally, the suppression of the book has had the (presumably) unintended effect of elevating such matters to the status of monstrous conspiracies; only those who have read it will realize how unconvincing the title-tattle actually is. (Of course, a reader has to consider whether all, most, some or any of the book is true, and here again an outsider is at a disadvantage. Much of it is plainly untrue, such as the account of a Cabinet meeting that did not take place, and a great deal more cannot be true, such as the detailed conversations he quotes, supposedly verbatim, from decades ago; their fictional quality is pointed up by the fact that everybody's prose exhibits the same combination of cliché and spy novel, though this may be the fault of the dreadful hack-work of the ghost-writer.)

There are two other possible causes of Mr Wright's passionate desire to harm the security services. The first, which should not be too quickly discarded despite its melodramatic quality, is that he is insane. I have to say that if any serious proportion of the book is true - half, perhaps - insanity would be a very strong candidate for the explanation. In the nature of intelligence work, where nothing and nobody can be taken as reality, the participant must gradually but inexorably lose touch with the world that the rest of us live in, and Wright unconsciously but most graphically portrays that deterioration in himself.

The third possible explanation of Wright's malevolence towards his old firm is the most likely of the three, though it does not rule out the other two, let alone both. We have all known for some time, without the help of the book, that Wright has become embittered to the point of uncontrollable hatred by what he sees as the breaking of a promise made to him in his early days, a promise that although he would not be strictly entitled to a full pension when he retired, he would in practice get one. (He could hardly have foreseen that the British government would make him a millionaire, so it is unlikely that the whole thing was carefully designed from the start as a matter of double-bookkeeping.)

Which is all very interesting, but what follows? To answer that question we first have to ask: what precedes? Although it is true that wherever you wish to go you have to start from where you are, we must discuss the horrible mess already made of this business by the Government (in particular drives Law Officers and Lord Chancellors) and the three judges of the House of Lords - hereinafter known as Wynken, Blynken and Nod - who threatened anyone publishing any of Wright's text with transportation to Australia, heedless of the fact



It is hard to resist the conclusion that among many other things that have deteriorated in recent years, the standards of the judiciary must now be included.

that that was where the trouble was taking place. (Free speech has never been safe in the hands of the judiciary, and a more striking demonstration of their instinctive hostility to it would be hard to imagine.)

Before I get down to my dismal task, I must say that the judiciary has not exactly been enhancing its public esteem lately. What with Lord Lane (when did we last have a really outstanding jurist?) getting indicted at newspapers which complained about lenient sentences and then remembering just too late that he had recently been doing exactly the same himself, and Mr Justice Canfield in the Archer case, lurching in his summing-up from one egregious error to another until counsel for the defendant had to get up and start pointing them out, and Judge Argyle raving about millions of illegal immigrants climbing through his letter-box until the Lord Chancellor had to tell him to shut up, and now the Law Lords displaying an eagerness to promote *raison d'état* as the central pillar of the law, for all the world as though the applicant before them was Mr Vyshtinsky rather than that poor benighted Attorney-General - when all these things happen in the space of a few weeks, it is hard to resist the conclusion that among many other things that have deteriorated in recent years, the standards of the judiciary must now be included. Mark my words, they'll have Lord Gifford in the House of Lords one of these days. (I realize he's there already, but you know what I mean.)

One of the lesser problems of this cautionary tale has surfaced repeatedly over the years; it is the constitutional anomaly of the Law Officers and the Lord Chancellor being both party politicians and independent legal figures (the Lord Chancellor, indeed, a judge). This in itself might not matter very much - after all, our constitution is full of such ancient oddities - were it not for the fact that they all have to persuade themselves that they take their legal decisions and actions on wholly non-political grounds, and that matters because it is such obvious nonsense that it must have the effect of bringing their offices, as well as themselves, into disrepute.

Now there can be no doubt that whatever Wright's motives, he has succeeded in doing harm. But those involved in the decision to try to stop Australian publication should have

realized that the dam would not hold; apart from anything else, whatever the Australians did it was inconceivable that the book could be stopped in the United States. It may be said that the Government knew that as well as everybody else (though I tend to believe that being in a government also drives people mad), but that they had to stand up for the principle that a man who has sworn an oath to keep his professional activities secret must be held to his vow. If so, it was both an empty gesture and a foolish one. The only sensible way to proceed was to make a token protest about overseas publication, and then re-draft either the law, or the contracts under which intelligence officers are recruited, or both, in order to ensure that the Government might have better luck next time.

But the salient point is that the harm has now been done. If it is true, as it has been reported, that the Attorney-General asked for the New Zealand publication to be stopped because it would damage irretrievably our security, then my suspicion that government office softens the brain must be elevated to a certainty; indeed, I invite him (I am quite sure that the Editor of *The Times* would accommodate him in the correspondence columns) to say in plain English what additional harm could be done by people in New Zealand reading excerpts from that which tens of thousands of Americans and others have now read in full, and which Soviet intelligence has been studying for the best part of a year.

There is a line from the trial scene in *A Passage to India* when the case against Aziz has abruptly collapsed; the Nawab Bahadur cries from the back of the court: "Sahib, you must withdraw; this becomes a scandal." Those are my sentiments, too. The Government must make it clear that as soon as the Australian appeal is dismissed, no further action will be taken against the book (apart, presumably, from garnishee proceedings designed to deprive Wright of his fortune) or any newspaper or other organ or individual publishing it. Hard biscuit, truly, but the alternative is a never-ending - literally, I should think - course of increasing hilarity, derision and contempt for Britain around the world.

That would not solve the problem of the three Law Lords and their decision. The Lords, however barny, is the law, and any one of the three is quite capable of initiating contempt proceedings, from now to eternity, off his own bat, even when the Attorney-General has long withdrawn from the fray and is harmlessly confining his politico-legal activities to the persecution of Pakistani immigrants.

Well, Lords Templeman, Ackner and Brandon are all 67 years old. That is not exactly Methusalem, but it's not a particularly early age at which to withdraw, either. A decent interval, followed by a long and serene retirement filled with fly-fishing and reminiscence, would dispose of any possible future awkwardness in these matters, and leave everybody more or less satisfied. Provided, that is, that they are not replaced as Law Lords by Caulfield, Argyle and Gifford.

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Ambrose Evans-Pritchard asks if the US has confounded its own policies

Has Reagan failed the Reagan doctrine? It has been a principle of this Administration that containment of Soviet expansion is not enough. To break the ratchet effect of the Brezhnev doctrine, which holds that communist revolutions are irreversible while regimes favourable to the West are fair game, Reagan has struck back, targeting vulnerable Soviet clients in the Third World.

Claiming a moral duty to support "freedom fighters", he has helped guerrilla insurgencies in Afghanistan, Cambodia, Angola and Nicaragua. But though these are credible movements it is hard to make the case for the Mujahideen, the Khmer Rouge, or the once-Maoist tribal leader Jonas Savimbi, our kind of people.

The Nicaraguan Contras are the exception. They are Roman Catholic, potentially democratic, and are led by men with business degrees from American universities. And they are the home team, fighting in a country where much of the population thinks of the US as the Promised Land. Not surprisingly the Contras have become the spearhead of the Reagan doctrine, the one real chance to dislodge a consolidated Leninist regime.

Hence the dismay of conservatives last week when President Reagan announced his peace plan for Central America. Instead of taking advantage of Oliver North's televised lectures on Nicaragua, which informed Americans for the first time what is at stake in the region and succeeded, against instinctive isolationism, in winning a plurality in favour of Contra aid, Reagan has ducked a fight with Congress.

If the Administration sought compromise because it was not confident it had the votes to secure fresh Contra aid when the current \$100 million tranche runs out at the end of next month, it is in even more trouble now. The peace plan itself contained nothing new; the Administration has offered to ditch the Contras if the Sandinistas simultaneously "democratize", that is to say dismantle, their

Has America compromised the Contras?

regime. President Daniel Ortega naturally replied: "We are already practising democracy."

The plan looked like the usual ploy of making the Sandinistas seem recalcitrant in order to soften up Congress for the next Contra vote. Senator Edward Kennedy called it a "sham from beginning to end". But in fact it is Reagan who has been outmanoeuvred by the Democratic co-sponsor of the initiative, House Speaker Jim Wright. Instead of, as intended, the initiative scuppering the less rigorous Arias plan (mainly devised by President Arias of Costa Rica) he seems to have scared the Sandinistas into signing the Arias agreement along with the four other Central American nations last Friday.

And now that Reagan has committed himself, through his own plan, to the principle of a ceasefire and a suspension of Contra aid, he is stuck with the same principle advanced by the Arias plan.

The difference between the two plans lies in the details, but the details are everything. Reagan would have given the Sandinistas weeks to make concrete concessions: Arias gives them months to make promises. The promises could be dragged out endlessly. The Sandinistas could re-open the banned newspaper, *La Prensa*, and close it again later. By the time it became evident they were stalling the Contras would have disintegrated.

The Arias plan cannot be enforced. It calls for the surrender of rebel forces in Guatemala, El Salvador and Nicaragua without consulting the rebels themselves.

These movements have not been defeated in battle and their grievances have not been resolved.

President Duarte of El Salvador and Cerezo of Guatemala hold power by sufferance of their respective armies. These armies have assassinated thousands of civilians in the last few years, and the officers responsible are still in command positions. It would be suicide for the guerrillas to accept the assurances of weak civilians that the army would continue to respect an amnesty after the world had stopped paying attention.

As for Nicaragua, it is credulous to expect pluralism. The Sandinista front is not a democratic regime that has resorted to repression. It is a Leninist structure that has tolerated democratic aberrations. The state, the party, and the army are fused in the so-called Sandinista Trinity.

An end to the Contra insurgency would lessen the need for counter-insurgency measures. But the structure of government is not negotiable. As Comandante Tomas Borge explains: "Anybody who fails to realize that in the revolution there is only one power, the revolutionary power, hasn't understood anything at all."

True, Borge has lost influence. The Ortega brothers, who control the army, have won the power struggle, and they are more flexible. It was the Ortega faction that made the heretical alliance with the bourgeoisie during the revolution in 1979, and afterwards broke all its promises. It would likely make the same sort of tactical compromise to outwit the US.

The Contras have nobody to match the Ortigas. After a series of

squabbling, part-time, civilian leaders the Contras have formed a new organization simply called the "Nicaraguan Resistance". It is a good team but ineffective without operational control of the former guards officers who command the 10,000-man northern front.

These officers are responsible for the lack of *esprit de la Contra* units. Most recruits are peasants from Nicaragua's mountain provinces, enraged by the ministries of land reform and internal commerce. After a bare military training they are sent into the field, where they then rely on the locally networks for support. The Salvadoran and Guatemalan guerrillas, by contrast, stress ideology, turning their recruits into sorts of political missionaries, who have much greater success in building a civilian resistance.

But even if the Contras were better guerrillas they would have trouble fighting a militarized society. Farming co-operatives, for instance, are often forced to form militias, turning them into enemies of the Contras. If they are not attacked the government suspects the co-operatives of collaboration. If they are attacked the casualties are publicized as civilian atrocities. I am persuaded by conversations with Nicaraguan *campesinos* that the Sandinistas have committed most of the abuses.

About 26,000 (1 per cent) of Nicaragua's population of just under three million have died in the five-year civil war. It is time for Congress to define its policy on the Contras. It participated in the creation of the rebel army but has not faced the implications. It has shifted position repeatedly (the five infamous Boland Amendments) and relied on conjuring tricks to let Congressmen show their disapproval of Contra aid without actually cutting it off.

Oliver North wanted the rebels to win, and he was right to reproach Congress for its cynicism in toying with Nicaraguan lives and its "vacillating, unpredictable, on-again, off-again policy".

The author is Washington Correspondent of *The Spectator*.

T.E. Utley

Drink and the Sabbath

Will the Government's attempt to liberalize the drink licensing laws suffer the same fate as its earlier attempt to free Sunday trading? I hope and believe that it will not.

The two issues are totally different. The most strident opposition to the Sunday trading bill came from convinced sabbatarians, some inspired by religious convictions and some by cultural convictions. What they had in common was a strong belief that the "English Sunday" was an institution worth preserving.

There was another category of opponents, to which I belonged. Our objections were conservative rather than specifically Christian. We believed that Sunday was a good thing, but we would never have dreamt of opposing its abolition, had the people genuinely and passionately wanted that, simply on religious or traditional grounds. It is not the business of the state to behave like that. Its function (on any part of its function) is to reflect in the law the convictions and deep wishes of its subjects.

Now, the case of the proposals for liberalizing the drinks laws is quite different. Here there is a strong and passionate demand for reform. Tourists are being driven mad by not being able to buy drinks in pubs in the afternoon; so am I, and many other honest and patriotic Englishmen. The restraints were introduced by Lloyd George only in order to stop munitions workers getting drunk in the First World War. I doubt whether they were justified even then. I suspect they were a product of Welsh non-conformist fanaticism - reflecting the extraordinary belief of many of those who belong to what, I seem to recall, Bishop Hensley Henson described as "the Protestant Underworld".

This belief is that at the Last Supper the Lord gave them fruit juice, not wine.

There are, of course, vigorous opponents of the new measures. There will be those who are so impermanent as to think that the state of my liver is their business. There will be those who are so misguided as to think that, because driving drunk is bad, passengers and pedestrians should also be deprived of drink. On drunk driving I will say little at the moment, because that requires separate treatment. All I will say is that the current general tendency to divert attention from the

objective character of a crime to the factors which are presumed to have caused it is a very dangerous one. Irresponsible driving is a grave offence, to drive irresponsibly when drunk should be an aggravating circumstance, but attention should be principally concentrated on the offence, not on its supposed causes.

In general, therefore, I wholly approve of what Mr Hurd is proposing. He has struck a blow for liberty and a blow against the "health brigade". Of course, poor chap, he has had to do it on a "balanced ticket". (Is it not odd that this American vulgarism, inadvertently uttered in a broadcast, should have conigned Mr Biffen to perdition? After all, all decent including Hurd, do operate on a "balanced ticket". This means that whenever they do something they must show that they are also doing the opposite.)

Mr Hurd has observed this rule. He cannot remove the ridiculous restrictions on drink without carefully demonstrating his sense of responsibility. So he accompanies his admirable proposals by promises of investigations into the effect of drink on pregnancy and crime. What will be the legislative effects of these investigations? A law to say that we can all drink unless we are potential criminals or pregnant? Imagine the scene: "Fruit of milk" (traditionally the criminal's drink). "A gin and tonic please." "Not, I think, in your condition, madam." I cannot think of any useful amendment of the law which could arise from these inquiries. However, Mr Hurd is the victim of the age and of his profession.

Now, what Mrs Thatcher has to remember is this: there is a strong streak of disgusting, dirigiste puritanism among some of her colleagues. It could prove lethal to her otherwise promising prospects of immortality. There is also a strong streak of "Merry Englandism" in Mr Kinnock's socialism. I am sure that he has the sense to build it up. He will, of course, have a hard time with his own puritans - men who, with dedicated, cold, religious fanaticism will devote themselves to their chosen causes - obscenity, envy and treason. He might well win with "Merry England". He would be well advised to forget other issues and concentrate on opposing "health fanaticism", the stick with which the middle classes are now trying to beat the poor. In that case, there would be a lot going for him. The supposedly bigger issues are hard for us all to understand, but we do like to drink and smoke and eat chipped potatoes.

Should Mr Kinnock adopt this course, should he present himself to the electorate as a man who believes that freeborn Englishmen should eat and drink and smoke what they like, and when they like, he might do very well indeed. Should Mrs Thatcher, contrary to advice, fail to dismiss Mr Currie, who knows where my vote would go next time?

however . . . Philip Howard

Touched for a tenner

The tenth of August is the feast of St Laurence, patron of barbecues. It is the day of the abolition of the French monarchy; the day of the foundation of Greenwich observatory and the Smithsonian Institution. It is the national day of Ecuador. It is a run-of-the-mill auld-claes-and-porridge day, really, except that there is a peculiar magic in tens.

Let us not weaken and give in to belief in lucky numbers and all that sort of thing. But 10 does seem to be a particularly agreeable number to human nature. It may have something to do with most of us being decadent, having 10 fingers and thumbs to count with, and, for major calculations, 10 toes as well. If we take off our socks or tights, I think it may go back to learning multiplication tables at a very early age, and the deep, deep bliss of getting on to the 10-times table after the hurry-burry of the sevens, eights, and nines.

And now that they seem to have discovered a shy tenth planet, to be named Marilyn or Maggie depending on your romantic tendency. For a credulous moment one wonders whether 10 may not be built into the structure of the universe. Of course this is primitive numerology. Numbers are made by man, not man for numbers. You can invent other systems of counting, such as the binary on a base of two, or a triskaidecenary on a base of 13, though I would rather that you wouldn't on a day that has started so tidily with a 10.

It is just that 10 recurs with remarkable frequency in human affairs, from the Decalogue banning coveting thy neighbour's wife and all that, to a woman's 10 commandments, said to be her beauty with my nails, I'd set my 10 Christian incantatory formulae. God has 10 names from Adonai to Omega. Vishnu has 10 avatars. Mahomet had 10 wives, including Ayishah, whom he regarded as one of the three perfect women, but he then broke the decapattern by taking on 15 concubines as well. There were 10 Attic Orators; the Romans had government by decemvirs, 10 of the great and

good; there are 10 Lost Tribes of Israel who may be found one day.

The first 10 amendments, called articles, to the Constitution of the United States form the Bill of Rights, which sets forth fundamental legal guarantees accorded to all of its citizens, and is a statement of liberty that is the envy of the rest of us. The nursery rhyme was 10 Little Injuns when it was first sung in the United States in 1869. The English changed the Indians to 10 Little Niggers, then back again to Indians out of racist sensitivity, then dropped the whole thing as an embarrassment. Ten animals are admitted to Paradise, at least according to Islam, viz: Kratim, the dog of the Seven Sleepers; Ephesus; Balaam's ass; Solomon's ant; Jonah's whale; the ram of Ishmael; the ass on which Jesus rode into Jerusalem; the camel produced from the rock by Saleh; the cuckoo of Belkis; the ox of Moses; and Al Borak, the animal that carried Mahomet to Heaven. The Muslims are as unsound on animals as they are on women if they bar cats from Paradise, and let in camels.

In mythology there were 10 Sybils, awesome prophetesses and go-betweeners with the gods. Malebolge, the bottom cellar of Hell reserved for the really bad boys, is divided into 10 Chams, the last of which is at the centre of the earth and the frozen river, Cocytus. There Judas Iscariot is frozen and chewed, and also Brutus and Cassius, as rebels and assassins of established authority rather than heroic tyrannicides.

Our own dear decimal system is said to have been invented in India, in an imperfect form lacking the zero. It is explained in the Latin geometry of Boethius in the 6th century but was forgotten in Europe until the invention of zero, when it was reintroduced through the Arabs, who called it the Indian notation. It was first explained in the work of Leonardo da Pisa, around 1200. So humankind can stagger along without tens, and indeed has done so for many centuries. It is just that decades add to the quality of life. For which belief, much thanks today. Tomorrow to the Eleventh, which is a different topspin bowling game.



1 Pennington Street, London, E1 9XN Telephone: 01-481-4100

POWERS IN QUESTION

An American President continues in effect to dare Moslem fanatics to fire on the US navy. He would assuredly bomb their mainland if they did so, with unforeseeable consequences. The world continues to wait. Meanwhile an obscure legal manoeuvre in a Washington courthouse at the end of last week could affect future developments in the Gulf.

More than 100 US congressmen have filed suit in a federal court to force Mr Reagan to invoke the 1973 War Powers Act and thus allow Congress to decide whether US ships should continue to escort the Kuwaiti tankers. Many Americans believe that this Act is unconstitutional because it infringes the President's authority in foreign policy.

The constitution is unclear about where authority in foreign policy lies as between President and Congress. As well as being important for Americans, this unresolved question is equally important for the rest of the world — especially that part of it, including Western Europe, which relies on America for protection. Countries like to know whether the Americans are coming. Also, they like to know whether, once they have come, they are going to stay.

The United States is a nation, among other things, of lawyers. Lawyers are commonly associated with delay. But after 200 years of the American constitution, it is about time that the most important of those lawyers — the ones who make up the Supreme Court — answered the question as to who is in charge of the country's relations with the rest of the world.

The judges will not offer an answer easily. The Supreme Court is traditionally reluctant to adjudicate between the two. But if last week's suit by the affronted congressmen leads to some such definitive clarification of the position, which it may not, it will have served some purpose other than publicity for those involved.

The 1973 War Powers Act came about as a result of a large congressional majority voting for a resolution to end unlimited presidential power to commit American forces overseas. Nearly a decade earlier, an even larger majority had done the opposite. By unanimous vote of the House of Representatives, and with only two dissenting votes in the Senate, Congress passed President Johnson's Gulf of Tonkin resolution giving the President power to take all "necessary measures" to repel any armed attack against American forces and "to prevent further aggression".

VICTORIAN VALUES

One of the charges continually urged against Mrs Thatcher is that she is trying to reimpose "Victorian values" on the British people. But what are "Victorian values"? And what, this question answered, is wrong with reimposing them?

These matters are addressed in a pamphlet published today by the Centre for Policy Studies, the independent research and publishing organization which exists to support the case for responsible capitalism and over which the Prime Minister herself continues to preside, though in no way by virtue of her office. The pamphlet is by Professor Gertrude Himmelfarb, a distinguished historian, and it makes its point instantly in the words of its title: "Victorian Values and Twentieth-Century Condemnation".

Essentially, what the 20th century thinks about the ethical principles for which the Victorians are supposed to have stood is that they were invented by a triumphant middle class for the purpose of beating the poor into submission. Their aim, it is believed, was to attribute all social evils to the fecklessness, sexual incontinence and drunkenness of the urban multitude. From the effects of these vices the poor could only be saved by the providence, restraint, sobriety and compassion of the rich and by diligent attempts to emulate these virtues themselves and meantime to accept with patience and humility the consequences of their condition. It is this parody of the culture of Victorian England, produced largely by Marxist analysis which Professor Himmelfarb sets out to correct.

The core of her argument is contained in this passage: "To the degree to which Victorians succeeded in 'bourgeoisifying' the ethos, they also democratized it. That ethos was not, to be

Both resolutions were provoked by Vietnam. The earlier one was passed because the Congressmen thought the war would be popular, the later because they knew it no longer was. Such human foibles should be borne in mind by anyone who assumes that legislatures are more disinterested than executives.

Under the War Powers resolution, the President is "urged" to consult with Congress before sending forces abroad, and "required" to do so afterwards. He must also send a written report to Congress within 48 hours of a commitment, and — unless otherwise authorized by Congress — to end it in 60 days.

To most Britons, let alone other Europeans, such legislation could only come out of a nation blessed with little experience of the sort of military actions which must constantly be engaged by a great power as it struggles to remain great. The need for such actions arises suddenly. While the outcome is in doubt, they may be unpopular at home. If a legislature is to have such a power of veto over the committing of forces, sooner or later it will put a stop to the only kind of action likely to deter and remove an aggressor — action taken early.

With the War Powers Act, the Congress lapsed into an attitude towards America's responsibilities which dated from an earlier disastrous time. That was when the congressional isolationists had, or were thought to have, a similar power of veto over foreign policy. It is always worth remembering that the United States — unlike Britain and France — did not declare war on Hitler. After the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour, Hitler declared war on the United States. Had he not acted thus, it is at best unclear whether, or when, Roosevelt would have been able to get the United States into the war against Germany.

Making the commitment to Vietnam was, with the benefit of hindsight, a mistake. Allowing your head of government reasonable latitude to keep open an international waterway is not. It is the sort of duty which has devolved on the biggest nations for centuries. Perhaps President Reagan will blunder in the Gulf. But that will not be because he has too much war power. It will be because he has used it badly. There will be times when the same power could be used well, but when a Congress would not want to approve it. That is why his countrymen should decide once and for all whether he and his successors should possess it.

sure, an exalted or heroic one. Hard work, sobriety, frugality, foresight — these were modest, mundane virtues, even lowly ones. But they were virtues within the capacity of everyone; they did not assume any special breeding, or status, or talent, or valour, or grace — or even money. They were common virtues within the reach of common people. They were, so to speak, democratic virtues."

In other words, Victorian morality in matters economic was the common property of the nation; its aim was not to enslave the poor, but to liberate them. To dismiss it as one huge con, is an act of condescension not only towards the Victorians but towards the working classes themselves.

It is easy to see how Mrs Thatcher fits into this picture. To put it in Marxist terms, she also wishes to "universalize the middle-classes". She wants them to own their own houses, to have a far larger degree of choice about the education of their children, and to be able to buy and sell shares. It is a peculiarly perverse line of argument which suggests that this is a recipe for enslavement rather than liberation, that its purpose is to preserve class distinctions rather than to diminish them and that it represents a social ideal markedly inferior to that presented by the principal alternative on offer.

That alternative is the belief that the vast majority of the people are incapable of those modest Victorian virtues which are essential to the well-being of a property owning society and that the mass of mankind must therefore be the objects of compassion and patronage on the part of their rulers. The essential merit of "Victorian Mrs Thatcher" is that she does not patronize the people.

SRI LANKAN ACCORD

The peace accord intended to end the ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka is beginning to take effect. Barring a few unconfirmed incidents hostilities have ceased, a large Indian peace-keeping force is installed, the Tamil guerrillas have begun laying down arms and the Sri Lankan Government has declared an amnesty and started to release Tamil prisoners. President Jayewardene has announced plans for an interim administration in the newly merged northern and eastern provinces prior to election later this year which will put in place the promised provincial government.

The speed and sureness with which these events have unfolded is reassuring. They suggest that the settlement is being pursued seriously and systematically. Both President Jayewardene and the Indian Prime Minister, Rajiv Gandhi, the architects of the accord, can justifiably be proud of their achievement. Yet their problems are by no means over. Achieving the settlement was just the first task. The more difficult will be supervising its enforcement in the face of Sinhalese opposition and with only the lukewarm acceptance of the Tamil groups.

The Sinhalese see their country as a small, vulnerable island and themselves as a Buddhist minority surrounded not just by Sri Lanka's own Tamil minority but also the 54 million Tamils across the Palk Straits in India. As a result they view the merger of the north and east as a stepping stone to separatism and the thin end of a menacing Tamil wedge.

The Tamil guerrillas, especially the Tigers, have agreed only reluctantly to accept the settlement. Although the exact terms on which this was achieved are not yet known, one of the

conditions the Tamils wrung out of the Indian Government was that Indian soldiers would form the peace-keeping force which will police the newly demilitarized regions of the north and east. Should the Tamils become disenchanted and renege on the deal, which could happen if the guerrilla groups find they cannot retain influence or if the proposed referendum in the east rescinds the merger, Indian soldiers may be pitted against Tamils.

Indeed the crunch could come earlier. Under the terms of the settlement India is to close Tamil training camps in Tamil Nadu, patrol the Indo-Sri Lankan coastal waters, help to extinguish residual violence and ensure the disarming of the guerrillas. If the Tamils feel they have been "forced into an unequal settlement they may cause trouble at any one of these points, and it would not be difficult for them to evoke the sympathy of Indian Tamils.

The fulfilment of India's new treaty obligations is therefore potentially damaging for Mr Gandhi's Congress Party, particularly at a time when its popularity is declining. Mr Gandhi might not wish to risk his position further for what would then be a failing Sri Lankan settlement.

These are significant problems. Nevertheless it is reassuring that both the Tamils and the Sinhalese have reservations about the settlement. That is the best proof that neither community has lost out and that the settlement is an impartial one. If each side can be convinced of the other's hostility to the terms they may be able to accommodate the settlement. With a little patience and perseverance from Mr Jayewardene and Mr Gandhi that should be possible.

Infants at risk in cardiac units

From Mr Christopher Lincoln and others

Sir, We are increasingly concerned about the inadequacy of the service being given to National Health Service patients in supra-regional paediatric cardiac centres. Our own unit is one of the three designated centres in London for the investigation and treatment of babies with heart defects, but because of a critical deficit of suitably trained nurses, the magnificent and well-equipped 12-bedded intensive care unit now accommodates only four to six patients.

In spite of every effort to maintain and improve efficiency, medical and surgical manpower is being wasted because of frequent cancellations of routine and urgent operations. Previously, 12 infants and children underwent heart surgery each week, whereas at present the maximum is six.

The transfer of critically sick newborn babies as emergency cases is frequently refused or delayed until a nurse is available to provide the necessary care. Inevitably increasing the risk to the infant's life and creating anxiety to the parents and referring staff throughout the south of England. Thus the population of children with treatable congenital heart defects continues to increase, with less likelihood of prompt, efficient and lifesaving treatment.

Abuse of children

From Mr Warren Colman

Sir, One of the most disturbing features of the cases of alleged sexual abuse of children in Cleveland is the apparent absence of evidence which corroborates the diagnoses of Dr Higgs and Dr Wyatt. Public debate has focused on legal procedures and medical second opinions.

The role of social workers has been markedly underplayed, as though their function is merely to implement legal procedures such as place-of-safety orders on the say-so of the consultant's diagnosis.

In a recent report, the NSPCC has blamed marital discord as the most common factor causing parents to abuse or neglect their children. This bears out repeated clinical observation that abuse, especially the kind of extreme

forms of sexual abuse alleged in Cleveland, can only occur in the context of a highly disturbed family.

Why have social workers in Cleveland not spent as much time and effort interviewing parents as the medical staff have in interviewing children? Our experience in providing training for social workers and probation officers leads us to believe that an understanding of the dynamics of marital interaction and the capacity to assess the kind of disturbed marriage which may lead to child abuse should be an important part of the social worker's professional skills.

Yours faithfully,
WARREN COLMAN,
Institute of Marital Studies,
The Tavistock Centre,
Belzize Lane, NW3.
August 7.

Housing homeless

From the Director of SHAC

Sir, You reported (August 5) Lord Justice Lloyd as saying of the Bangladeshi families declared intentionally homeless by Tower Hamlets, "what they want is not sympathy but housing". Such a profound truth, which also can be applied to the rest of the growing army of the homeless, provided the only glimmer of light in the abyssal darkness of the High Court proceedings and all that led up to them.

The question now is, at least until the appeal, who if not Tower Hamlets is going to come up with the housing? Beyond a few offers from housing associations, possibly a local church with floor space and one or two shady hotels who charge within DHSS limits, the chances of finding housing for those directly involved, not to mention migrant families from

abroad and the UK who are dependent on other local authorities poised to follow Tower Hamlets' example, are remote.

The continuation of an injunction means that some of the families will keep a roof over their heads until the outcome of the appeal is known. This may save consciences for the time being. The possibility remains that in the autumn we shall see some families put on the streets and their children taken into care. To allow this to happen would be criminal.

I would observe that a law which permits local authorities to behave in this manner is gravely in need of change by, for example, removing the absurd concept of "intentional" homelessness. Yours faithfully,
TONY SMYTHE, Director,
SHAC (the London Housing Aid Centre),
189a Old Brompton Road, SW5.
August 5.

'Spycatcher' ruling

From Mr Charles Utley

Sir, I hope you will not feel insulted if I say that the British press (and even one or two former judges) seem to be allowing the Wright affair to get a little out of perspective.

There is clearly scope for disagreement as to whether the judges were right to conclude that the arguments for a temporary injunction were stronger than those against one (although it would be courteous to wait for publication of the Lords' speeches). There is not the slightest scope for arguing, upon any logical grounds, that the decision of the House of Lords is akin to censorship in the Soviet Union or in this case.

There will presumably be a full trial of the Government's case. At the end of that trial the court will rule on whether, according to established (not new) law, publication of the Wright memoirs would

be unlawful. If the Government then wins, the newspapers can, if they wish, campaign for a change in the law which preserves the confidentiality of some information.

Should we reach that stage I hope it will not be too much to ask that the protagonists remember that Mrs Thatcher did not make the law.

It is no doubt uncharitable to point out that, had Lord Scarman (August 3) waited to consider the speeches of those members of the House of Lords with whom (at present) he disagrees, his views might not have been quite so widely publicised. That, however, sounds more like a complaint made by a judge of a politician and is, of course, quite unjustified in this case.

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,
CHARLES UTLEY,
13 Crookham Road, SW6.
August 3.

Facing up to debt

From Mr John Denham

Sir, The estimated £1 billion tax relief which the major banks expect on their developing-country debt provisions is more than the "incidental cost" to the Exchequer which your leaderwriter describes (July 27).

Apart from its being equal to 25 per cent of the public-sector borrowing requirement, the taxpayer will get nothing for this lost revenue. And, while the banks' painful and overdue decisions are softened, little contribution will have been made to resolving the underlying debt crisis, or improving conditions for the poorest in debtor countries.

The Government could, however, collect the tax, but return it to the banks through the purchase of developing-country debt. Bought at, say, a 50 per cent discount, reflecting their second-hand market value, the Government would obtain around 11-12 per cent of British bank Third World loans. These could then be cancelled, rescheduled at lower interest rates, or used in agreed "debt-development" swaps to assist the poor.

The banks would take a loss on

the loans sold and forgo future interest payments, but many loans are of such poor quality that any losses are likely to be more apparent than real.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN DENHAM,
War on Want,
37-39 Great Guildford Street, SE1.
July 29.

Part of the family?

From Mrs Christine Penhale and Mrs Susan Whitaker

Sir, In our opinion the conclusion of the research on television, reported on the front page of *The Times* today (August 5), is absolute nonsense.

If the findings of the report are correct, then our televisions are totally uncooperative members of our families. They could be considered as having psychological problems as all they do is stand or sit in a corner all day long and for long periods of time are totally silent. Is this dumb insolence?

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTINE PENHALE,
SUSAN WHITAKER,
Middle Prazz, Cape Cornwall,
St Just-in-Penwith,
Penzance, Cornwall.
August 5.

Common interest in Flow Country

From the Chairman of the Nature Conservancy Council

Sir, Lord John Mackie (feature, August 1) refers dismissively to the Nature Conservancy Council's recent publication, *Birds, Bogs and Forests: the Peatlands of Calthness and Sutherland*. I would like to reiterate two points I made at the launch on July 23 of this scientific document. I quote: "I am not going to attack forestry; indeed we at NCC support forestry when properly located and properly carried out."

Secondly, in calling for a moratorium, I said that sufficient length for appropriate solutions to be worked out which will bring benefit to the people of Calthness and Sutherland and at the same time protect in perpetuity this unique piece of our national and indeed of the world's heritage.

Neither of these points was mentioned in your report of the launch (July 24).

We called for a moratorium on planting because these naturally treeless peatlands are the largest single area of habitat in the United Kingdom left relatively intact. They are of importance on the world scale and we regard their appropriate protection as the most important nature conservation issue of the last 30 years.

Some 67,000 hectares of a total area of about 400,000 hectares have already been planted or is programmed for planting, with more land being purchased for the same purpose. Of the 41 hydrological systems which could loosely be termed catchment areas, only eight remain unaffected by planting, and fresh planting is taking place at around 4,000 hectares per annum.

So a moratorium is desperately

Soviet emigration

From Mr D. L. B. Hartley

Sir, In his letter (August 6) the Russian Ambassador says that the cases of those wishing to emigrate from his country are under constant review and that the merits and circumstances of each case are always taken into account.

The language of sweet reason; but does he not see that the very notion of permission to emigrate is what many of us cannot understand? And is permission to emigrate from the USSR, "based on the merits of a case", a privilege?

Yours truly,
DESMOND HARTLEY,
Ghyll Bank,
Brook Road,
Windermere, Cumbria.
August 6.

Radio 'pirates'

From Mr A. Nimmo

Sir, In response to your article of July 28 on attacks on DTI (Department of Trade and Industry) investigators by "pirate" radio enthusiasts, while in no way condoning such attacks if they are happening (and only two of the incidents cited are directly attributed to pirates) I would suggest Mr Butcher is looking at the problem from the wrong direction.

Is there a need to "crack-down" on "pirates"? Should he not be urging the Government to speed up the granting of licences, as suggested in the recent Green Paper on radio?

A lot could be done in the interim by extending special-event licences, allowing test transmissions etc, so that those awaiting licences could begin to broadcast legitimately.

This could be done without a change in the law and could cut down considerably the work of his investigators in this area — something I'm sure they would appreciate. It could also alleviate the confrontational element in the present situation and the need for piracy.

Yours sincerely,
A. NIMMO,
26 Southfield Road,
Cotnam,
Bristol, Avon.
July 28.

Charity salaries

From Mr Geoffrey Elms

Sir, Your correspondent, Edward Fennell, in his timely article on careers in charities (July 28) implies that the gap between salaries in the voluntary sector and the commercial world is closing because of the demand for suitable staff. There is surely a growing supply of energetic and experienced people who retire in their early fifties, who are well able to fit top and senior management positions and, having a pension, are not too worried about salary.

The principal reason for increasing pay levels is that charities are concerned to pay proper salaries to those in management many of whom are professionally equipped and have natural career ambitions. Progressive salary structures are now quite common. Yours etc,
GEOFFREY ELMS
(General Manager),
Charity Appointments,
3 Spital Yard,
Bishopsgate, E1.
August 4.

Top dressing

From Professor W. P. Stephens

Sir, After seeing the photographs of the Cabinet (August 6) I can only ask: "Where have all the waistcoats gone?"
Yours sincerely,
PETER STEPHENS,
University of Aberdeen,
Department of Church History,
King's College, Old Aberdeen.
August 8.

needed to allow time to work out a comprehensive solution which takes account of all the legitimate interests, especially those of the people of the Highland Region. I believe this can be achieved without further damage to this unique area.

On afforestation generally, we consider that planting should be outside areas of good wildlife habitat. With land becoming surplus to agricultural requirements a solution is at hand. We welcome forestry when, from a wildlife point of view, planting is designed and managed in the right way and, above all, when it is located in the right place.

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM WILKINSON,
Chairman,
Nature Conservancy Council,
Northminster House,
Peterborough, Cambridgeshire.
August 4.

ON THIS DAY

AUGUST 10 1793

Charlotte de Corday d'Armont (1788-1793), great granddaughter of Corneille, travelled from Caen to Paris and stabbed to death in his bath Marat, whom she considered the instigator of the worst excesses of the French Revolution.

MAD. MARIE ANN CHAR. CORDAY

We are favoured by a very intelligent English gentleman with the following interesting particulars of the trial and execution of this heroic woman, of which he was an eye-witness.

None but spectators of the afflicting scene can conceive the majestic picture of the immortal CORDAY, who, from a perfect sense of rectitude and independent spirit, deliberately sacrificed her life for what she conceived would be the redemption of her country, and enlighten the seduced minds of those wretches who adhered to the seditious doctrines of Marat.

Her appearance at the Revolutionary Tribunal struck each person with respectful awe, and the idea of her as an assassin was removed from every mind.

The Accusateur Public having asked her for what reason she had committed this resolute act of murder? she replied with a stoical calmness — "I came to Paris to glorify myself by this deed: to deliver my country from a conspiring monster, and to stop the wound his atrocious hands had opened."

Accusateur Public: Are you not ashamed to become a common criminal for assassination?

Mad. Corday: It is a crime to have committed murder, but no disgrace to ascend the scaffold for this act.

Accusateur Public: Do you recognize this sanguinary dagger?

Mad. Corday: I bought that myself, in the Palais Royal, and remember it well: it is the same I plunged into his heart — and am satisfied.

This unhappy lady had two Counsellors, one of whom was MR. STONE, an Englishman, who during the last two hours of her trial incessantly felt her pulse, to distinguish if there was any symptoms of burning fever or timidity. He declared they were the same as those of a person contented in their mind. She did not manifest the least irresolution but in one interval, when Mr. Stone was so struck with her firmness and answers, that he was quite dismayed, and at that instant her undaunted courage fell, and tears of sweet sensibility declared her gratitude for his pleading for her. She was condemned at three o'clock in the afternoon, after a trial of six hours, to be beheaded at eight o'clock the same evening on the Place de la Revolution.

The scene which her execution presented was magnificently awful. The Place was thronged with multitudes, and the most feeling minds were excited to behold the Amazonian courage of this unhappy lady in her last moments.

It was with much difficulty she arrived at the scaffold. The fish-women and others, belonging to the markets, were near tearing her to pieces, with oaths and imprecations the most horrid. The Gens d'Armes and horse of the Republic prevented this horrid act, by galloping up with lifted sabres.

Mad. Corday ascended the scaffold with intrepidity. She appeared serene and reconciled to death. She pulled off her bonnet and handkerchief herself, but recoiled when the executioner went to bind her legs, and said, "Are you so bad as to expose me here?" He answered, "No it is to bind you." "Do it then," she replied with firmness.

The inhuman monster when showing her head to the people after her execution, slapped her twice on the cheek! This was considered as an atrocious act, that the very Tribunal who had condemned her to death, sentenced her executioner to twelve years imprisonment in irons.

The corpse of Mad. Corday was buried in the church-yard of St. Magdalene, near the grave of Louis XVI.

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Lord Editor

MONDAY PAGE

Smartie's the life and soul of the party

Jelly and ice-cream are taking second place to the new polka-dot darlings of the child's party circuit. Barbara Toner sees the king of the clowns in action

Smartie Artie picks Alex immediately. "I've spotted Alex," he mutters to the nanny. While other guests are hesitant, Alex has come rushing into the room. He screams down its full length, beneath the lofty expressions of former Lord Mayors, round the magic box, slapping the clown as he passes, and he continues to provide interesting and sometimes uninteresting diversions for the next two-and-a-half hours.

"Mind you, it's the shy ones who are the hard work," Smartie reflects later. Today's birthday boy is a little on the quiet side. It isn't always easy to see if he is enjoying himself.

"He's had a difficult time," his mother, the Lady Mayores says, "leaving all his friends in Virginia Water and having to start at a new school in the city." Mark Rowe-Ham, third son of Sir David and Lady Rowe-Ham, the Lord Mayor and Mayoress of London, has asked 30 friends to his sixth birthday party in the former ballroom of the Mansion House. Smartie has to work like a fiend.

"It's a big room," he says. "You don't need big rooms. Mothers say they will hire a hall and I say 'Hang on, how many children and how old?' Hell on earth is a party for three-year-olds in a hall."

Smartie Artie is a veteran of children's entertainment, an industry growing rapidly with upward mobility and decentralization. Demand both in and out of

London is fierce, and unemployment has brought a rush of amateurs, some gifted, most not, to meet it.

Geoff Donald of the Reg Webb agency, which took 3,000 bookings for parties last year, says: "You can't learn to be an entertainer like you can learn to be a musician. It takes about 10 years before you can look at yourself and say 'That's how it ought to be'."

Ernie Almond has been Smartie Artie number two for 20 years, having teamed up with a former work colleague from Marconi who became the original Artie 30 years ago. "We both did cabaret," says Almond, who is Smartie to everyone, including his bank manager. "I was half a quick-change comedy act and Artie did adult magic. Then he went full time doing children's parties and I used to help him out. He taught me everything."

Together they have built a substantial business, finding and training Smartie Arties three to nine, all of whom dress as clowns, in spotted pyjamas with spotted socks and a spotted hat. They don't wear the face because it can be frightening. "If I get a child crying I say 'I'm not a clown. I'm a daddy. Look, I've got the same watch and shoes as your daddy.'"

Donald agrees Smartie Artie has a good product. "But he only does clowns. In London, in these upward mobility schools where you get children going to parties with entertainers three or four times a week, I think you've got to give them something different."



Tricks of the trade: children fall under the spell of Smartie Artie's awesome blend of silliness and masterly crowd control

"Parents know what they're getting when they book us," Almond says. "It's an awesome blend of silliness, good humour and a mastery understanding of crowd control. Appealing to the children's sense of competition seems to be at the heart of it. Between every game or trick he cries: 'Now, let me see who's sitting up straightest', so that two hours into a party, all he has to say is 'Now let me see...' and the rows of children in front of him cross their arms and legs and arch their backs obediently."

His knack of settling children in and down is breath-taking. Each child's name is memorized as he or she arrives. "Hello Jonathan Jellytots. Come and shake hands. Thomas Tea-pot. Parents are his biggest headache. The only time he ever walked out on a job was when the conversation of parents sitting around a hall was so loud he couldn't hear himself. "I said, 'Look, would you mind very

'Hell on earth is a party, held in a hall, for three-year-olds'

much keeping the noise down.' The granny got up on to the table and said, 'What are you talking about, I could do what you do.' I said, 'Could you, Madam?', packed my box and left."

He has enough for two two-and-a-half hour parties in his box, plus his year-old trained rabbit, Cocoa. "Rabbits are not like dogs. You have to train them at six weeks or you can't train them at all," Almond says. Cocoa is a little excited today and wriggles more than is seemly.

Smartie is unperturbed. He is on top of everything, all the time, noticing everything and everything. When Mark cries in

pain after a collision with Alex, he checks that he is all right, laughs ("Ooh look, your eyes are raining"), and moves quickly back to the act. It works like a dream. "Children love it when you make a fool of yourself. Smartie Artie is never clever, you see. Artie says it's no use getting an elephant out of a match box. The kids would say, 'So what! It's just magic'. They want to be amused."

They work to exact age groups. "It's the first question you ask, not how many children, when or where, but how old." He will not do parties for children younger than three and most are for children under eight.

For a fee of £55 he will entertain before tea, help supervise the food and then do another act afterwards. Fees are the same for weekends and he is booked for every weekend this year. He does between 300 and 400 parties a year.

Vilma Russell, who handles the book-

'Parents know what they are getting when they book us'

ings for Oscars Den, which hires out party equipment as well as entertainers, says the secret of a good children's entertainer is spontaneity and versatility. She does not mind inexperience.

Smartie Artie believes in training and preparation. All the clowns have been carefully trained for the job. "The first thing we do," Smartie says, "is get them into a clown suit. We will sit around chatting about the job. They will be in their suit and Artie and I will be watching to see how they are." After that they are taken on jobs, allowed to be helpers, and finally, after about three months, allowed to do their own parties.

They have all been carefully vetted. They must be, Smartie says, what with "modern problems". Ideally they're looking for young family men. He himself, being unmarried, is very sensitive to modern problems. Where touching a child on the hand is often important in establishing trust, he would never dream of putting his arm around a child's waist.

"It's sad," he says. "The other day a little girl came in with a present and said to the birthday girl 'Guess what it is?' and I said, 'Don't tell us, it's a secret.' The mother practically leapt down my throat. She said, 'We don't have secrets in this house because one day a man might try to take us away in a car and ask us to keep a secret.'"

He has worked for all sorts, from Highgrove, where the Prince of Wales once gave a party for Princess Anne's children, to council houses. Prince William has been at several of his parties. "He's a great little boy, a real giggler."

It was not his first visit to the Mansion House, he had been at the Lord Mayor's children's party for 800, sharing the entertaining with three others in the Egyptian room. "At the end we all get called up to meet the Lord Mayor and I always hope I get the loudest cheer."

"Three cheers for Mark," he calls at the end of today's party. Mark seems bemused. "Alex," says Smartie, grasping the small boy by the shoulder, "if you don't stop talking I think you may run out of breath altogether."

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A computer called chaos

When a small business outgrows the kitchen table, is a big computer a help or a hindrance?

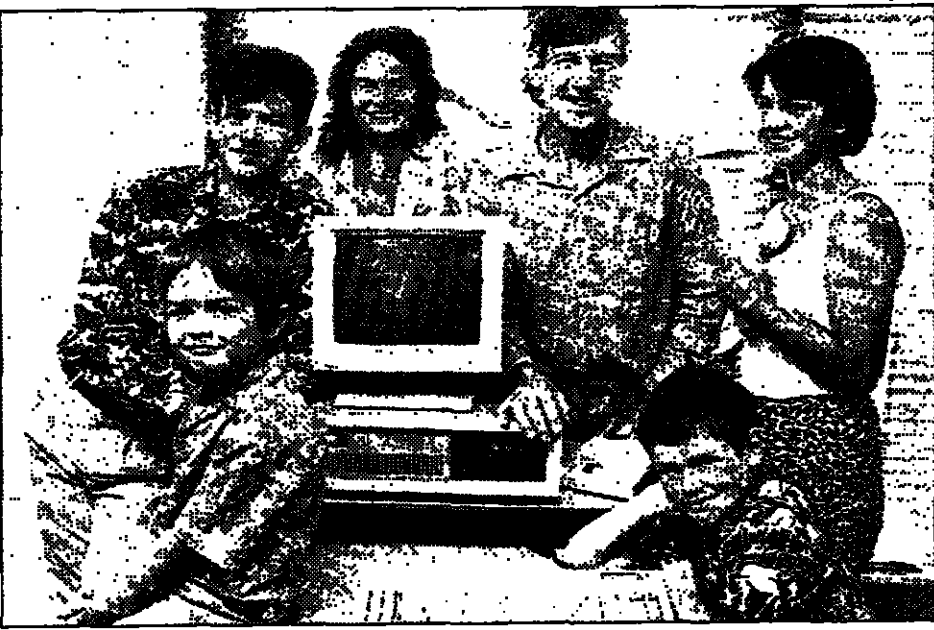
In certain homes, the twice-yearly arrival of the Clothkits catalogue is eagerly awaited. Long before mail order became fashionable, Clothkits, started in 1969 by Anne and Finn Kennedy, had built up a band of devotees among the caring professions: social workers, teachers and those who, according to the Kennedys, are "visually aware but not slavish followers of fashion".

And indeed, now that Clothkits has expanded from children's to adult's clothes, it is unusual to attend almost any "socially aware" household's function, from a One o'clock Club to a drinks party, without spotting at least one Clothkit outfit.

So imagine the consternation this year, when Oliver's dungarees turned up without his matching T-shirt, Samantha's pinafore kit arrived without her toning canvas shoes, or nothing turned up at all. The phone lines to Clothkits were busy for weeks — at times it was impossible even to get through to the local Lewes telephone exchange.

What had gone wrong? Was Clothkits another example of a small business being brought to its knees by its own success? Ironically, it was in order to improve their service that the Clothkits management had decided to replace their ageing computer system. It was this, rather than anything else, they say, that caused trouble.

Clothkits has certainly grown. In the beginning it was very much a kitchen-table



No longer just a terminal case: Anne and Finn Kennedy and the Clothkits family

operation; the first catalogues were little more than swatches of fabric samples, sketches, and a snapshot stuck into a folder by hand. Now they are glossy and professional. The Kennedys can still recall the chaos of the early days, when they worked from an attic studio in their Victorian house in Lewes, but those days have long gone. Clothkits now employs 307 people and there are seven retail shops, design studios, administration offices, customer service and data-processing departments and a production area behind the shop in Lewes.

The winter catalogue (which will be available in mid-August) introduces curtain material and tablecloth kits for the first time. Finn is aware of the difficulties expansion causes. "The ideal situation with mail order is to have a small range in just a few sizes and colours. We have about 850 lines in the catalogue and these are changed every six months. The problem is that

mail order is not like a shop — there, when the last one has gone, no one sees it so no one wants it."

"We used to put the orders into our old computer, so that when the stock came in we could find the customers who needed it. But the new computer ate names and addresses and did all those awful things the experts tell you that computers can't. And it worked at about a quarter of the speed we needed."

Also, this season the company had 40 per cent growth. "The end result was that we failed to key in about 20,000 orders and this created a huge bottleneck, which started to squeeze through the company; that, in turn, affected delivery. Every time we thought we were coming out of the tunnel, off we'd go again. It could have finished us off, but the company has learnt a lot. Now we're over the hump."

So what advice would Finn give to others in the same position? "If you are small and growing you must get the

right person — probably an independent consultant — to come in and write your specifications. It's such a big job that managers of the company don't have the time."

Finn advises employing "Someone who will really listen to what you want, take into account all the particular needs of your particular business. And it's worth asking yourself if you really need a mainframe — have a look at what micros can do with a current standard business package."

Despite the trials and tribulations of the past few months, Finn is optimistic about the future. And he is grateful that his customers have not deserted him in droves. "In a way we've been lucky — there are enough people in our kind of market who know how awful computers can be."

Lee Rodwell

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Codes of conduct unbecoming

In asking her old lover, Geoffrey Boycott, to give her away at her wedding, the singer Shirley Western broke the first rule of the New Amatory Code: do not flaunt before an old flame that which he decided he didn't want anyway.

The temptation to rub in the fact that you have gained new-found happiness is, of course, overwhelming. And so is the *frisson* that comes from witnessing a man who once loved you handing you over to a man who loves you now (I don't think we'll stop to examine the symbolic aspects of the case: it would need a score of psychoanalysts). But the fact is it isn't very polite and Mr Boycott was quite right to plead a previous engagement.

Miss Western made the mistake of thinking that once you have had an affair with a man, he owes you favours from



there on after, and you are entitled to ask him for anything from leading you down the aisle to plumbing-in the dishwasher.

Under the New Amatory Code, this won't wash. These days nobody forces anybody to give them their beautiful body. If you fall for the "I want to see your face on the pillow when I wake up in the morning" routine, it is entirely up to you, but don't expect lifelong gratitude for it, let alone lifelong affection.

The New Amatory Code's dictum of civilized behaviour

at any cost sometimes backfires. I know a man who was particularly keen that his new wife got on well with his former mistresses. And indeed she did, since they were all beautiful and intelligent, as she was herself.

Very soon they were organizing regular lunches, shopping trips, weekends at health farms. But as time went on, the man became increasingly uncomfortable as he sensed, quite rightly, that their main topic of conversation was his own shortcomings. He suspected, again rightly, that intimate secrets were being traded, causing bouts of girlish giggles. He is beginning to long for the days when a past love, catching sight of him at a party, would pass by with a withering stare instead of throwing herself into his arms with cries of: "Hello darling,

what heaven to see you here."

The New Amatory Code believes in carrying previous emotional baggage along with you without allowing yourself to remain emotional. It supposes that lovers can become friends painlessly, can drift in and out of each other's lives without regrets or longing. It calls for bags of self-discipline and disapproves of anybody acting in a provocative manner.

It ignores everyday human feelings, like the desire for revenge and the wish to see the one who spurned you humiliated and rejected. I think that Miss Western would have known how to behave better under the Old Amatory Code. Under its regulations, she would have been perfectly entitled to hit Mr Boycott in the eye with her brand-new engagement ring.

From Lord Kilbracken,

House of Lords

Liz Gill begins her article ("Testing time for fathers", July 20) by describing DNA analysis as a "most extraordinary weapon... delivered into the hands of women", but surely it is much more likely to be wielded by men? The only women to use it will be those who had unexpected intercourse with two or more partners in fairly rapid succession, or whose sole lover denies he could have been responsible.

It is likely to happen much more frequently that a cuckolded husband who has a suspicion that a child is not his

own will decide it is worth £105 to put the matter beyond doubt — which he can do without his wife knowing about it.

From James Rusbridger, St Austell, Cornwall

I can't believe that Scotland Yard is so impoverished that an officer as senior as Superintendent Iain Desai (the "At crime's hard core" July 31) cannot lift the telephone, and call his police colleagues in California and have them air mail him a complete list of potential

subscribers to child pornography found in the possession of arrested people in America.

To say that police are not interested in those who buy child pornography is equally absurd. The quickest way to stop some, at least, of this foul trade would be to expose as many buyers as possible, and make it known that the police have in their possession many mailing lists. Searching the houses of those who buy the stuff would certainly reveal others of a like mind and their suppliers.

The police deploy endless manpower to search for minute quantities of drugs — why not for child pornography?

From Mrs Jill Ohlson, Watton-on-the-Hill, Tuddor, Surrey

Your article on Diane Vaughan's book, *Uncovering* ("Breaking up really is hard to do", August 3) quoted her as saying: "The why's and wherefores of the discontent, or its source, don't really matter." It seems to me that what matters is the strength of the commitment of both partners to the relationship. Given the will, on both sides, discontentment can be overcome.

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Single cover, for the prime earner in the family, can cost as little as 12p a month for each £100 you borrow. Joint cover, for you and your partner, is only 24p.

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You won't be committed in any way and we won't contact your employer or visit you.

We will, however, arrange everything speedily by post. Alternatively, if you would like an instant quote, you can phone us free of charge on 0800 850850. Either way, act now. The sooner you do so, the sooner that £5,000 is yours.

Priority Application Form

The First National Securities Ltd, Dept. DM, FREEPOST 1, HARROW, MIDDLESEX HA1 1LR. (No stamp required). Telephone: 0800 850850.

Please answer all the questions in block capitals. (SORRY! NO TENANTS)

Amount Required £ _____ over _____ years

Purpose of Loan _____

Personal Details (Tick Box) Single ☐ Married ☐ Separated ☐ Divorced ☐ Widowed ☐

FULL names Mr./Mrs./Ms. _____ Age _____

Wife/Husband/Partner's full names _____ Age _____

Your Address _____ Postcode _____

How long have you been at your present home? (STD) _____

Home Tel. No. (STD) _____ Previous address _____

Employer's name _____ Address _____

How long employed by them? _____ Occupation _____

Wife/Husband/Partner's occupation _____

Income (Before Tax) (Tick Box) Your income with overtime and bonus £ _____ Wh./Mth./Yr. ☐

Wife/Husband/Partner's income £ _____ Wh./Mth./Yr. ☐

(Please attach current pay slips as proof of income)

Outgoings Approx. Amount Outstanding Monthly Payments Total Amount (Gross)

First Mortgage £ _____ Second Mortgage £ _____

Limited Endowment Premium £ _____ Second Mortgage £ _____

H.P. Credit Sales £ _____ Bank/Personal Loans £ _____

First Mortgage with Second Mortgage with

Details of Property Freehold/Leasehold - If leasehold year unexpired _____

When did you purchase? _____ Jointly owned? YES/NO. _____

Price Paid £ _____

Amount borrowed £ _____ What is it worth now? £ _____

Reason for increase? _____

Protected Payment Guarantee Please tick in the appropriate box whether you require single or joint cover. Single cover ☐ Joint cover ☐

If you confirm that the information has been confirmed supplied by you is correct to the best of your belief. Signature of applicant. _____

Date _____

(Indicate which side of the page is to be photocopied)

First Repayment in Dec. CREDIT PLAN

Loans secured on property.

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

This selective guide to entertainment and events throughout Britain appears from Monday to Friday, followed in the Saturday section by a preview of the week ahead. Items for inclusion should be sent to The Times Information Service, PO Box 7, 1 Virginia Street, London E1 9XN

BOOKING KEY

★ Seats available
★ Returns only

THEATRE

LONDON

★ **BRIGHTON BEACH MEMOIRS:** Neil Simon's vivid recollection of a Brooklyn childhood. Waves of emotion, Julie Covington joins the cast in an NT transfer. Aldwych Theatre, Aldwych, WC2 (01-836 6404, cc 01-379 8233). Tue-Hol, Mon-Fri 7.30, 9.45pm, Sat 8.30-10.45pm, Wed 8.30-10.45pm, Sat 5.15pm, 7.15pm, 9.45pm-10.45pm.

★ **THE CANTERBURY TALES:** Michael Bogdanov's cheerily bewildering version of Chaucer's classic. Prince of Wales Theatre, Coventry Street, W1 (01-839 5987). Tue: Pantomime Circus. Mon-Sat 8pm, 10.30pm, 12.30pm.

★ **COURT IN THE ACT:** Gorgeous Gabrielle Drake makes Michael Denison and dazzles Lee Montague in this genial 1912 French farce. Phoenix Theatre, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (01-836 2294). Tue: Pantomime Circus. Mon-Fri 7.30-10.15pm, Sat 8.30-10.50pm, Wed 8.30-10.50pm, Sat 5.20pm and Sat 5.7.20pm, 10.20pm.

★ **FOLLIES:** Sondheim's musical, in London at last, has Diana Rigg and Julie McKenzie leading a sassy cast. Shaftesbury Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (01-379 5399). Tue: Pantomime Circus. Mon-Fri 7.30-10.15pm, Sat 8.30-10.50pm, Wed 8.30-10.50pm, Sat 5.20pm, 7.30pm, 9.45pm.

★ **AN INSPECTOR CALLED:** Tom Baker and Pauline Jameson in Pinter's evergreen about guilts among the gentry. Westminster Theatre, Palace Street, SW1 (01-834 0283). Tue: Pantomime Circus. Mon-Fri 7.30-10.15pm, Sat 8.30-10.50pm, Wed 8.30-10.50pm, Sat 5.20pm, 7.30pm, 9.45pm.

★ **MELON:** Neil Simon Gay play stars Alan Bates as a glittering playboy impeding with sexual rivalry. Haymarket Theatre, Haymarket, SW1 (01-830 9832). Tue: Pantomime Circus. Mon-Sat 8pm, 10.30pm, mat Sat 5.30pm, 7.40pm, 9.45pm.

OUT OF TOWN

★ **CHICHESTER:** ★ A Man For All Seasons: Tony Britton as Sir Thomas More troubling the king with his conscience. Festival Theatre, Chichester Park (0243 781312). 7.30-10.25pm, 12.30-2.15pm, 4.30-7.15pm.

★ **LEICESTER:** ★ Kip's War: Carl Davis adventure musical set wartime evasive discovers funny things happening in the woods. Haymarket Theatre, Belgrave Gate (0533 53797). Mon-Fri 7.30pm, mat Sat 4pm, 5.30-7.15pm, 9.45pm.

★ **SCARBOROUGH:** ★ Getting On: Revival of Alan Bennett's shrewd and award-winning comedy of the Seventies. Stephen Joseph Theatre in the Round, Scarborough (0723 370541). Mon-Sat 8.10-10.45pm, 12.30-2.15pm.

★ **STRATFORD:** ★ The Merchant of Venice: Gill Alexander's new production with Antony Sher as Shylock and Deborah Findlay as Portia. Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon (0789 256623). Tonight 7.30-10pm, 12.30-2.15pm.

★ **STRATFORD:** ★ Temptation: Latest sharp comedy by Vaclov Havel. Catch dramatist banned in his own country. The Other Place, Stratford-upon-Avon (0789 256623). Tonight 7.30-10pm, 12.30-2.15pm.

★ **STRATFORD:** ★ Trues Andromedae: A People's Play. Shakespeare's bloodiest play; Elizabethan audiences loved it. With Brian Cox in line voice. Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon (0789 256623). Tonight 7.30pm, 12.30-2.15pm.

FILMS

★ **Also on national release**
★ **Advance booking possible**

★ **AN AMERICAN TAIL (U):** The adventures of an immigrant mouse in New York, relayed in sturdy, old-fashioned animation by former Disney artist Don Bluth. The story, though, springs no surprises (81 min). Cannon Baywater (01-228 4149). Progs 1.15, 3.30, 5.45, 8.00, 10.15pm.

★ **OPERA DO MALANDRO (15):** Exuberant Brazilian musical set around Rio's low-life in the early 1940s, and chronicling the rise of the Trappist Opera. Music by Chico Buarque; directed by Ruy Guerra, one of the country's leading film makers (105 min). Lumiere (01-836 0681). Progs 1.50, 4.05, 6.25, 8.40, 10.55pm.

★ **RADIO DAYS (PG):** Woody Allen's sweet, delicate tapestry of Brooklyn families, broadcasters and Manhattaners sharing hopes and dreams at the end of the 1930s. With Mia Farrow, Dianne Wiest and Seth Green (89 min). Odeon Haymarket (01-836 2738). Progs 1.15, 3.30, 5.45, 8.00, 10.15pm.

★ **THE SECRET OF MY SUCCESS (PG):** Michael J Fox climbs Big Apple's business ladder with the help of deception and Helen Slater. Comedy for aspiring yuppies with an unrelenting sense of humour (111 min). Cannon Baker Street (01-935 9772). Progs 1.30, 3.50, 6.15, 8.35, 10.55pm.

★ **SUPERMAN II (PG):** Superman - now flying under new management (Cannon Films) - tries to rid the world of nuclear weapons. Lex Luthor does his utmost to prevent him. Juvenile stuff, with the old acting team - Christopher Reeve, Gene Hackman, Margot Kidder, Jackie Gleason - and a director new to the series, Sidney J Furie (87 min). Warner West End (01-439 0791). Progs 12.40, 2.40, 4.45, 6.50, 8.50, 10.55pm.

★ **THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA (PG):** Michael Crawford, Steven Berkoff, and a cast of 100. A musical about a man who is blind, but has a voice that is the most beautiful in the world. (120 min). The Phantom of the Opera, London W1 (01-439 8181). 11pm, 210.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 17,430

This is a corrected reprint of Saturday's prize puzzle, which appeared with the wrong grid in some editions.

ACROSS

- Framework for serving soldiers (5-4).
- Mozart's catalogue has key placed out of order (7).
- Surpass in public work (7).
- Black magic following rain storm in Africa (7).
- How doctors describe bone injured in Barking (5).
- Bank to stop advances (9).
- Medical tag (3).
- Account for filling up at station? (6-5).
- Author known for his work in the tropics (5,6).
- Nursery gardener not right in springtime (5).
- Exhausted swans putting tail first in open (9).
- Recipient of a booked passage (5).
- Overcome by darkness, having died in sleep (7).
- Cricketer side getting out without interruption (9).
- Puff oxygen for exhilaration (5).
- Wet sandal is unusual in the desert (9).

DOWN

- Old woman tickled to death? (5).
- Tab, mule off course, still (7).
- Headquarters in this office (7).
- Tea (temp) main course, oddity, of stimulant drug (11).
- Boy's range of knowledge (3).
- He appears in "Some Like It Hot" (5).
- Promote "Oklahoma" as centre-piece (7).

8 Collection of showy pieces has lit introducing "Mull of Kintyre" (9).

13 Conditions for translation of routing table (11).

14 Comprehensive case? (6-3).

15 Knight-bachelor, we bear, being round on a horse (9).

16 Isle of Wight features almost 1000, paradoxically (7).

17 River of wine (7).

18 Mr Badger's home needs love following dust-up (3-2).

19 Chilly? First signs of any laryngitis, get in doctor (5).

20 Moisture expected, they say (3).

A prize of The Times Crossword Puzzle No 17,430 will be given for the first five correct solutions (opened next Friday). Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9XD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

Name _____

Address _____



Tonight the world premiere of parts two, four and five of *Odyssey*, by Nicholas Maw (above), is given at the Proms by the BBC Symphony Orchestra under Mark Elder. These will play for 75 minutes. In its complete form this is one of the longest orchestral works ever written, and the BBC intends to give *Odyssey* in its entirety - a matter of some 95 minutes - later on. The vast enterprise was begun in 1972 as a result of a London Symphony Orchestra commission which was later transferred to the BBC. The Homeric title signals no literary programme, but the piece does embody the concept of a musical and metaphorical quest. *Odyssey* has occupied Maw for around 15 years, the finishing touches being put to the score only recently. He says: "I believe there's a certain kind of musical expression that can only be achieved on a very large scale," and, having the dimensions of a late Romantic symphony, *Odyssey* needs to be firmly structured. Maw explains that "the music develops its material in a truly symphonic manner; lengthy melodic statements are used in the way composers have traditionally treated short, pithy motives".

Max Harrison

EDINBURGH FESTIVAL

August 9-21, Festival Ticket Office, 21 Market Street (031 225 5758) for credit card sales and reservations for all shows.

★ **DANCE:** ★ Shostakovich Russian folk dance company from Archangel. Playhouse, Edinburgh Festival Box Office, 031 225 5758, 7.30, 9.45pm, 23-25.

★ **GALLERIES:** ★ The Warwick Arts Trust: The permanent collection of the London-based charity, including works by Haydon, Appel and gipsy painters like Lucian Freud. 389 High Street, Edinburgh (01-834 7868). Daily 10-5pm, free, until August 28.

★ **Hockney Posters:** An exhibition celebrating the publication of a book of the same title. Edinburgh College of Art, Leith Road, Edinburgh (031-225 9311). Mon-Sat 10-5pm, free, until August 28.

★ **June Redfern:** New paintings by a young Scottish expressionist and former artist-in-residence at London's National Gallery. Mercury Gallery, The Mount, Edinburgh (031-225 3200). Mon-Fri 10-5.30pm, Sat-Sun 10-4pm, free, until September 5.

★ **THEATRE:** ★ *June and The Duke*: The Garth Greenard play about the life of O'Casey's masterpiece, with Doreen McCann as the strutting peacock. Royal Lyceum Theatre, Grindlay Street, Edinburgh (Festival Box Office 031 225 5758). 7.30, 10.30pm, mat Sat 2.30-5.30pm, 10.30-12.30pm.

★ **Mary Stuart:** Frank Dunlop's production of Schiller's tragedy - the story of the Scottish queen's execution - is given at the Edinburgh Festival Box Office 031 225 5758, 7.30pm, 10.30pm.

★ **A Wholly Healthy Glasgow:** Ian Hoggie's marvellously funny play, set in a health club, making wild poetry out of foul language. A Royal Exchange production from Manchester. Church Hill Theatre, Morningside Road, Edinburgh (Festival Box Office 031 225 5758). 7.30pm, 10.30pm.

★ **My Little Life:** Company from Papua New Guinea present their folk music and dance. Sees, Performed in Pidgeon English. St Bride's Centre, Oxford Terrace, Edinburgh (Festival Box Office 031 225 5758). 7.30pm, 10.30pm.

★ **CONCERTS:** ★ Orchestra of the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. Conducted by Claudio Abbado. Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2 (01 240 1066/1911).

★ **Menahem and Gideon:** Sir Yehudi Menuhin (violin) and Paul Kozlov (piano) perform works by Brahms, Beethoven and Bartok. Queen's Hall, South Clerk Street, Edinburgh (Festival Box Office 031 225 5758). 11am, 8.45-11pm, 10.30pm, 7.30-10.30pm.

★ **FRINGE:** August 9-25. All bookings through Fringe Office, 170 High Street, Edinburgh EH1 (031 225 5758). Tickets from £2.50. For details of Fringe programme and list of more than 450 companies.

★ **JAZZ:** ★ Lionel Hampton: A great vibraphonist and entertainer fronts his exciting big band. Queen's Hall, South Clerk Street, Edinburgh (031 668 2018). 7.15 and 10pm, 7.30-10.30pm.

★ **THEATRE:** ★ *Jerome Kingdon:* Films: Geoff Brown; Concerts: Max Harrison; Opera: Hilary Finch; Rock: David Sinclair; Jazz: Richard Williams; Dance: John Rankin; Circus: David Lee; Talks: Greta Carlaw; Other Events: Judy Froehling; Bookings: Anne Whitehouse.

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ENTERTAINMENTS

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THEATRES

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THEATRES

BARBICAN HALL 020 8766 6388

MONDAY AUGUST 10 1987

Executive Editor
Kenneth Fleet

STOCK MARKET

(Change on week)
FT 30 Share
1726.9 (-125.6)
FT-SE 100
2226.2 (-134.7)
Bargains
57422 (48563)
USM (Datastream)
203.82 (-14.57)

THE POUND

(Change on week)
US dollar
1.5655 (-0.0270)
W German mark
2.9580 (-0.0001)
Trade-weighted
72.0 (-0.3)

US NOTEBOOK

The dollar
— today's
rogue in
marketsFrom Maxwell Newton
New York

The unexpected rogue element in the financial markets was the dollar, which rose from ¥148.7 to ¥151.3 in the week ended Friday. The pound took a worse knock, dropping from \$1.59 on July 31 to \$1.5583 last Friday.

A real shock for the dollar came with the Bundesbank's decision to intervene to support the mark last Wednesday and the Bank of England's decision to raise rates in what was interpreted in New York as a quite serious move. In the event, the mark plunged from 1.848 on July 31 to 1.887 on August 7 against the dollar.

The new-found strength of the dollar, which has fully recovered all the losses suffered in the March-May crisis, is due to the severity of the squeeze on money growth imposed by the Federal Reserve beginning in January.

To summarize the development in these key monetary aggregates this and last year:

● Money M1 rose at an annual rate of 19 per cent between June and December 1986. Between December and July 1987 it rose at an annual rate of 4.1 per cent. In "real" (inflation-adjusted) terms, M1 rose at an annual rate of 16.5 per cent between June and December 1986. It fell in "real" terms by 1.2 per cent per year between December and July 1987; and

● Monetary base (board of governors) rose at an annual rate of 12 per cent between June and December 1986. Between December and July 1987 it rose at an annual rate of 7 per cent. Between January and June 1987, (Fed policy changed in January) the monetary base rose at an annual rate of 6 per cent. In "real" terms the monetary base rose 9 per cent a year between June and December 1986. Between December and July 1987, in real terms it rose 2 per cent a year.

This continuing striking reduction in the growth rates of money and of the monetary base is having the following effects:

● It is throttling the growth of commodity futures prices; and

● It is holding the dollar up against other main currencies.

The new world of stable currencies is pushing the various central banks into restrictive policy actions, led by the Fed which has totally reversed its wildly expansionary policy of 1985-86 and has no intention of moving to ease. Pervasive fear of inflation has demanded a continuing heavy hand by the Central Bank.

Is there a hint of gold standard mechanism at work here? Certainly Friday's news of a monster increase of 304,000 in non-agricultural employment in July would not help those in the Fed who have said its policy is too tough.

By Friday's close, nearby crude futures were back to where they were a month ago and gold was back at its levels of mid-July. The commodity research bureau index of commodity futures prices was down to its lowest level since mid-May.

Meanwhile, personal consumption spending in the US remains weak. July retail sales were only so-so and General Motors has had a very dull reception to its latest 1.9 per cent financing plan aimed at clearing 1 million surplus cars off the lots before mid-September and the onrush of the 1988 models.

But this is very much a General Motors problem.

Analysis 20 Third Mkt 20
Foreign Exch 20 USM Prices 20
City-Edged 20 City Diary 21
Inv Trade 20 Euro View 21
Money Mkt 20 Share Prices 22

Fear of another hike in base rates on bad trade figures

City is braced
for new slide

By Cliff Feltham

Stock market dealers are preparing for the worst today after last week's crash wiped more than £25 billion from share values.

There will also be anxiety behind the scenes as City firms struggle to handle the huge backlog of paperwork or face the prospect of Stock Exchange fines.

The collapse in share prices was triggered by the sudden rise in base rates and dealers will be looking apprehensively for some salvation from economic indicators due this week.

Most City analysts believe there is unlikely to be any real attempt at a rally until after the announcement tomorrow of the June trade figures.

Mr Ian Harwood, economist with Warburg Securities, said the market was very worried about the trade figures.

"If they turn out to be better than expected there will be a huge sigh of relief. But if they are bad then there could be real pressure on sterling with the possibility of another hike in interest rates," he said.

Mr Robert Thomas and Mr Kevin Boakes, economists at Greenwell Montagu, said: "The reduction in inflation remains a central plank of

Government economic policy, but this week's figures will indicate that the trend in inflation is currently upwards."

It is felt, however, that share prices could fall further before any serious buying resumes. Dealers feel a shake-out can be healthy in taking the heat out of some shares which have been carried higher on euphoria but little substance.

The suddenness of last week's collapse unsettled even experienced City operators.

In one of the most spectacular 24-hour falls ever, more

Economic View — 21

than 100 points was wiped off shares between lunchtime on Thursday and Friday. In previous bouts of stock market nervousness there had been little active selling of shares, with dealers merely marking prices lower. Last week, however, there was panic selling.

This placed great strain on the dealing system. Friday saw the largest number of individual deals ever reported to the Stock Exchange — 58,000 compared with 48,000 on Thursday. The number of price changes entered into the Exchange's computer system on Friday was a record

114,000 compared with about 50,000 changes on an average day's trading.

The Stock Exchange denied it had been unable to cope with the volume but many traders complained of delays in prices appearing on their screens.

The plunging market also sparked speculation that a member firm was facing collapse. The Stock Exchange calmed the fears, saying there was no foundation for the claims.

Even so, Sir Nicholas Goodison, the Stock Exchange chairman, is bound to be taking a close look at affairs, particularly as the authorities have told firms they may be fined if they do not meet deadlines for settling outstanding share transactions.

He has set up a special task force to tackle firms guilty of delays. The authorities realize, however, that the dramatic surge in dealing has imposed almost intolerable strains on some firms.

The backroom staff and dealers poised at their computer screens will be hoping the market returns to more normal levels of business this week but much will depend on how investors react to the economic statistics.



Sir Nicholas Goodison: expected to examine dealing delays

Britain 'plunging into red'

By Graham Searjeant, Financial Editor

Britain's balance of payments will plunge sharply into the red this year and next, whatever the much-awaited trade figures for June show tomorrow.

The warning has been given by Mr Gavyn Davies and Mr David Morrison, chief economists of Goldman Sachs, the securities house.

In spite of the surprise surplus of £900 million recorded for the January to April period, they expect a balance of payments deficit of £1.5 billion for 1987 as a whole, rising to £3 billion in 1988.

The 1987 forecast compares with the £2.5 billion deficit

projected by the Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, in his Budget, and was prepared before Thursday's one-point rise in base rates.

It assumes that the May deficit was a freak but that it suggested imports may be emerging as a problem. Import growth in the past three months has been loaded towards consumer goods.

It argues that the trend has deteriorated because British goods are no more competitive than they have on average since 1983, while demand in Britain is likely to grow 1 per cent faster than the

average for industrial countries.

The sterling price of oil is also forecast to fall in the next 12 months through a combination of easing dollar prices and a rise in the value of the pound against the US currency.

Mr Davies and Mr Morrison expect manufactured exports to rise at about 4 per cent a year but manufactured imports may increase more than 6 per cent. This could lead the non-oil trade balance to worsen by £2.5 billion in 1988 at the same time as the oil surplus falls by £1 billion-1.5 billion.

Iranian predicts
\$3 oil price rise

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

A more permanent rise in the oil price of up to \$3 a barrel by December was predicted yesterday by the Iranian oil minister, Mr Gholamrezi Azadeh.

The price would increase by the next meeting of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries in December as long as members of the cartel stick to agreed production quotas, he said.

According to the Iranian News Agency, Mr Azadeh

said the price would rise if no "special circumstances" arose but he did not elaborate further.

Following increased tension in the Gulf, the international spot or non-contract crude oil price has risen to \$20-\$21 a barrel, up from the agreed Opec benchmark level of \$18 a barrel.

But price sabre-rattling by Iran is not convincing oil analysts that prices will continue to stay at high levels.

UK retail
groups in
'top 10'By Derek Harris
Industrial Editor

Four British companies are now among the top 10 European retailers, with Britain's combined Co-operative Retail Societies only just pushed into second place by West Germany's Albrecht food store chain.

Albrecht, with estimated sales in 1986 of £4,497 million, is the leading European exponent of limited assortment discount food retailing.

The retail interests of the Co-op in Britain had a turnover of £4,172 million, covering more than 90 co-operative retail societies and the retail activities of the Co-operative Wholesale Society.

In fourth place after France's Carrefour hypermarkets group was Marks and Spencer with sales of £3,716 million. Vindex International of The Netherlands was in fifth place followed by J Sainsbury with sales of £3,414 million.

THIRD MARKET REVIEW

Nursery calm as big boys fall

By Cliff Feltham

There were fears that last week's huge falls on the stock market could have seriously upset the stability of the Third Market, the so-called nursery, launched last January. But dealers, to their surprise and delight, found that there was no rush to sell the fledgling shares and the Third Market remained insulated from the panic elsewhere.

The Stock Exchange, which has been carefully developing the Third Market — set up for dealings in the shares of young companies and as a replacement for the less regulated over-the-counter market — is well pleased with its progress. In one week more than 2,000 bargains were struck and almost 20 million shares valued at more than £10 million changed hands. Since its launch, more than £30 million of new capital has been raised and the number of companies traded has increased from eight to 21 with others queuing to join.

Many brokers responsible for sponsoring companies on to the Third Market believe shareholders have taken a long-term view of their investments and refused to become caught up in the scramble to sell.

Mr Robert Clinton of Greig Middleton, which brought Publishing Holdings and Eglinton Oil & Gas to the market, said: "The market has been surprisingly

resilient. The sellers are the big boys who are hitting the big stocks. We are not getting the panic selling. People realize these are young companies and the investment has to be looked at over a longer period."

Mr David Wilkinson of TC Coombs — which has just launched Medunice, a company carrying out research into AIDS and cancer — said the market had behaved much more firmly than might have been expected. His firm is preparing to launch another company on the market, ChemEx. About £2 million in shares is being placed in the company, which is involved in environmental analysis.

Mr Harold Bach of Guidehouse, with a trio of companies including Theme Holdings, Unit Group and Allied Insurance Brokers, believes the market is progressing well. "We would rather see it grow slowly than become a punter's paradise. There have been no crashes so far and investors appear to be taking a mature view of the companies on the market."

However, Peat Marwick McLintoch, the accountant, believes the market is not progressing as rapidly as it should because brokers are still very cautious and the companies are not always well prepared.

A survey found that more than 150

companies wanted to join, but only a handful were coming forward. "If the high level of interest is to be translated into action then companies need to be better prepared and brokers need to be better informed of their responsibilities," said Mr Ted Awey, who handles the work for the accountancy firm.

His company is now publishing a checklist giving information required by sponsors on which the suitability of candidate companies can be judged.

Meanwhile, the now mature Unlisted Securities Market has continued to show the main market a clean pair of heels, having outperformed the FT-All Share Index by 15 per cent in the first half of the year.

Mr Andrew Holland Country NatWest, the broker, explained: "Over the past few months there has been a lack of interest in blue chip companies and people have been looking to smaller companies for value."

The market has also advanced strongly on the back of the high new issue premiums commanded by debutant companies and the increased takeover activity. "Major companies are increasingly looking towards well-run niche businesses as forming part of their future growth plans."

Price tables, page 20

New Fed chief
to fight
inflation threat

From Bailey Morris, Washington

Mr Alan Greenspan is due to be sworn in tomorrow as chairman of the US Federal Reserve Board during a critical period.

Rampant inflation, which had been tamed by Mr Paul Volcker, the former chairman, is again perceived as a threat by international financial markets. The Reagan administration last week raised its official inflation forecast by a full point to 4.8 per cent for 1987.

Mr Greenspan inherits a board which is short of the combined institutional memory which guided his predecessor, Mr Volcker. All seven governors have been appointed by President Reagan.

This changing of the guard at the world's most powerful central bank has left a large policy gap which Mr Greenspan must fill quickly to retain the confidence of financial markets, say leading analysts.

Employment gains last month, suggesting solid economic growth, have put pressure on the Fed, says Mr Joel Popkin, a leading forecaster.

A consensus is emerging that the board cannot allow interest rates to fall over the next six months.

Stronger growth, coupled with rising prices for oil and other imports, affected by the lower dollar, has resulted in new forecasts that suggest the end of an unusual period of disinflation in the US.

Most private forecasters anticipate inflation to rise to more than 5 per cent this year, and to as high as 6.8 per cent in 1988. This represents a dramatic about-turn from 1985 to 1986 when inflation grew by only 1.2 per cent. For the first five months of this year, inflation jumped to an annual rate of 5.6 per cent by May. The American bond markets were thrown into chaos.

The Fed had predicted an increase in inflation this year to an estimated 4.9 per cent, which is manageable.

Mr Greenspan pledged during his Congress confirmation hearings to continue the fight against inflation begun by his predecessor.

GM set to sell off
heavy truck plant

By Daniel Ward, Motor Industry Correspondent

Bedford, General Motors' commercial vehicle subsidiary, is to sell its Dunstable heavy truck plant. Last autumn, after abortive merger talks with Leyland Trucks, Bedford stopped making medium and heavy lorries but 1,000 workers continued to build military trucks and kit parts for export vehicles.

A Bedford spokesman said yesterday that Dunstable was close to breaking even before taking account of interest and tax. Half the annual production of 5,500 trucks is exported and there is a three-month order book excluding military vehicles.

Existing contracts for four-wheel-drive army lorries ends late next year and the plant's long-term future depends on winning a new deal for 20,000 military vehicles.

Bedford faces competition from Leyland Daf and Volvo

and must wait until trials of test vehicles are completed at the end of next year, to discover if it has been successful.

The company aims to work closely with any new owner at Dunstable over the next year to preserve Bedford's long-standing links with the Ministry of Defence and give it the best chance of winning the contract for the new four-tonne truck. The 20,000 vehicles will be delivered over three years from 1990.

Before GM withdrew from the European commercial vehicle market, it unsuccessfully courted lorry-builders in the hope of merging Bedford to establish a more viable operation.

Its failure makes clear that the interest shown in Dunstable by third parties has come not from truck makers but independent concerns

'B share laws' rejected

From Stephen Leather, Hong Kong

A Hong Kong government committee has come down against passing laws to prevent the Crown Colony's firms issuing B shares at a fraction of the price of ordinary shares but with the same voting rights.

The Standing Committee on Company Law Reform was

called in after Jardine Matheson and others said they planned to issue cheap shares with the same voting power as ordinary shares.

Instead of new laws, the committee wants the Colony's Securities Commission to look at each case on its merits.

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سیدان الراجلی

GILT-EDGED

Base rate rise shows quick reaction by the authorities

The debate about excess demand in the British economy is over; the markets—the final arbiters of truth—have declared themselves. For the past six months or so, they have been ambivalent—taking notice of the views first of one set of analysts, then of another—but last week they plumped for the overheating camp. The Chancellor, not a man normally subservient to market fads, concurred; the immediate consequence was a rise in base rates.

To many people, it was quite clear from the labour market statistics alone that the pace of economic growth in the second half of last year and in the first half of 1987 was unsustainably fast. When that message was supported by the rising popularity of the Government (a sure sign of fast growth) and a burst of strength in commodity prices, there was no room for any real doubt.

The Bank of England has also known for a long time that the monetary aggregates were growing too quickly, and the officials there were only restrained from applying the brakes earlier by the fear that sterling would rise too sharply. They could see the effect excess liquidity was having on the price of housing (and fine art) and knew the day of reckoning could not be far off.

Significantly, other countries had already been through this process of re-assessment. The Americans were the first to take action. Mr Paul Volcker, at the US Federal Reserve Board, tried to understate the significance of his squeeze on liquidity by referring euphemistically to it as "snugging," but the data made clear he was actually

fairly heavy-handed. Having grown at double-digit rates last year, the US monetary aggregates were stopped in their tracks in the first five months of 1987. The West Germans, living up to their reputation for orthodoxy, were quick to follow suit. Even though demand was not very strong, Herr Karl Otto Pöhl at the Bundesbank used the excuse of a recovery in the dollar in the late spring to impose a more restrictive credit environment. The Japanese delayed for a while longer. The central bankers might have wanted to tighten, but the politicians were too sensitive to international opinion to want to be seen as inhibiting their economy. Eventually they too submitted.

That left London rather isolated. For a brief period, sterling and the gilt market were buoyed by the Conservative election victory and the presumption of inflows of overseas capital, but when those inflows failed to materialize, the urgency of a "touch on the monetary brakes" became undeniable.

What is encouraging about the latest episode though, is the speed with which the authorities reacted to the incipient problems of excess demand. At other times, the politicians have pretended they could see no problem and consequently let the excesses intensify, allowing demand to build until the overheating was intolerable. This time, by acting at an early stage (indeed, when some analysts were unconvinced of the problem), they have probably ensured that the resulting catharsis is relatively mild. That conclusion might seem to fly in the face of the

market's extreme initial reaction, but our guess is that the bloodbath in the closing sessions of last week was mostly a reflection of the more flexible market-making arrangements employed these days. Before Big Bang there was a slightly cosy cartel operated by a small number of jobbers; today, there is intense competition. Then, a price correction could be spread, to the benefit of the jobbers, over a relatively long period; today, it is concentrated into an instant. If this analysis is correct, the implication is that gilt prices may already have fallen to reasonably sensible levels.

The economic picture will certainly become a little more helpful. As the growth of credit here is contained, the level of spending by industry and the consumer will lose momentum. That will help the balance of payments, which could easily be back in significant surplus by the autumn. It could also take some pressure off the labour market. A boost for sterling would reinforce the anti-inflationary pressure. It would enforce price moderation by intensifying the competition from overseas suppliers and send employers back to renegotiate pay awards.

The tighter credit environment would also hit industries' capital spending plans, but probably not by very much. Profitability is so high at present (and likely to remain so) that the increment to the cost of finance would have little or no bearing on the decision-making process. Where it would affect company activity very dramatically is in the area of mergers and acquisitions.

Indeed, one of the most

spectacular manifestations of the gushing availability of credit in recent months has been the neurotic compulsion of finance directors to acquire other companies. Incredibly, a large number of the target companies have been American! British corporations have issued a flood of paper to raise the finance to buy (usually overvalued) companies in the US.

After a few more uncertain sessions, therefore, we may well see a recovery in gilts. It is unlikely, however, that the market will stage anything approaching a bull phase. It is not until the world moves into below-par rates of economic growth—1989 perhaps—that we will be able to be convinced buyers of gilts.

Meanwhile, demand for government paper is likely to be thin. Quite apart from the superior attraction of equities and commodities, the natural buyers of gilts—insurance companies and pension funds—are likely to suffer a protracted softness in cash flows.

The conservative authorities hide the surpluses for as long as they can, but eventually have to come clean. Then (and this is happening now) they cut back on the allocation of funds to purchase securities. The demand for gilt suffers particularly harshly in the process. This seems to mean that, as long as equities continue to perform strongly, demand for gilts will be dull—another reason for waiting until the world recession begins to bite before we go nap on bonds.

Roger Nightingale
The author is group economist at Hoare Govett

ANALYSIS

Century oils the high-tech way to growth by diversity

Century Oils, which began life in 1874 as a specialist supplier of lubricants to the Midlands coal mines, is as much a product of the industrial revolution as the market it originally served.

But Century Oils—unlike some parts of the coal industry, which had to be dragged, kicking and screaming, into the twentieth century—has evolved into a modern, high-tech lubricants supplier to an international range of industries.

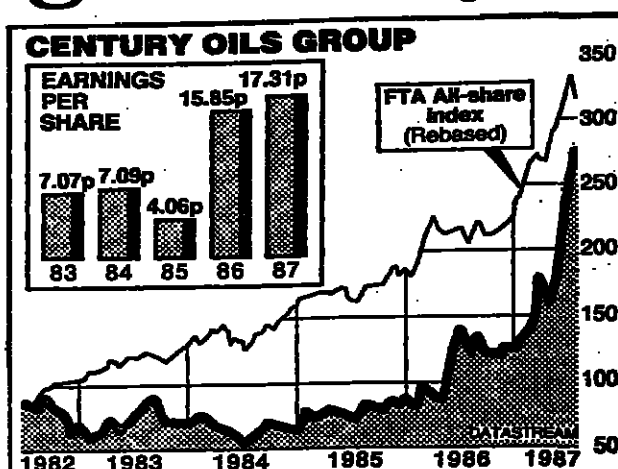
The market for lubricants covers a multitude of specializations, which can be broadly divided into automotive and industrial applications. Many industrial applications can be highly specialized and it is in the most refined segment of this market that Century has positioned itself.

It reckons it has almost 20 per cent of the specialized industrial and non-retail automotive (diggers rather than cars) market, and in the Shell pecking order, follows Shell, the market leader.

Over the years, the group has had to respond to evolving machinery design as ever more sophisticated motors have been developed to operate in increasingly demanding environments.

The twin pillars on which Century has been able to build year-on-year earnings per share growth—more than 15 per cent every year since going public in 1956—have been customer service and research and development.

Century is in the business of developing the lubricant that solves the customer's problem. And now the concept of customer service has been developed and refined into a specialist activity in its own right.



Century calls it Cent—Controlled Engineering Tribological service. Medicine provides the closest analogy. By taking a blood sample from a patient, the doctor can to some extent "see" inside the body without operating.

Similarly, Cent processes lubricant samples from machinery in a new diagnostic laboratory to "see" inside machinery without stripping it down. From the findings, metallurgists can predict engine failure, pinpoint wear patterns in components and assist maintenance planning for repairs, or even modification of the machine itself.

"Almost everybody will say they are offering this service," said Mr Charles Mitchell, Century's chairman, "but we know our service is very different. We have a database of each item of equipment serviced and every component within it, and we can get a very precise diagnosis of what is happening within the machine."

In such a specialized technical area, research is integral to the company's success. Century's growth has been

three processing plants into the new facility in Stoke-on-Trent will allow the group to operate with significantly lower stock levels, freeing working capital. Add cash from property disposals and the group looks amply funded for an ambitious acquisition programme.

This will include further moves overseas but a potentially exciting area could involve an acquisition in hygiene products, where it has about 3 per cent of the British market share, supplying hand-cleansing and skin-protection creams. But purchases could be expensive in this fashionable market.

Nevertheless, the group's prospects look enticing. Mr Simon Taylor-Young of Wood Mackenzie, the stockbroker, reckons the group will make about £8.1 million pretax this year.

The tax charge will remain low, at about 26 per cent, as the group takes advantage of tax losses in the US and Belgium, giving a prospective multiple of only 13.

After years of being mistaken for an oil refiner or explorer, or even of being involved in filling stations, Century Oils Group is becoming much better known by the investment community.

Mr Mitchell believes the rating has suffered after being classified with the oil sector. "But as 60 per cent of our raw materials are oil-based, no other sector seems suitable," he says.

Some residue of this thinking is reflected in the rather lowly multiple, but in a jittery market, a solid share such as Century can look very attractive.

Carol Ferguson

THIRD MARKET

Capitalization	Company	Price on Friday	Weekly Change
11,097,000	Abelco Group	415	-50
6,475,525m	Abendun Am Petrol	430	+1
3,790,800m	Allied Insurance	120	n/c
6,410,000m	Catalyst Comm	80	-1
22,752,977m	Corton Beach	125 1/2	-3
5,885,977m	Edinburgh Int	225	-40
15,870,000m	Edinburgh Int	28	-4
1,085,538m	Do. Vienna	19	-
6,250,032m	Publishing Holdings	61 1/2	-15

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Market rates	Market rates	1 month	3 months
August 7	August 7	August 7	August 7
N York 1.2550-1.2560	1.2550-1.2560	1.2550-1.2560	1.2550-1.2560
London 2.0744-2.0752	2.0744-2.0752	2.0744-2.0752	2.0744-2.0752
Amsterd 3.2572-3.2580	3.2572-3.2580	3.2572-3.2580	3.2572-3.2580
Brussels 61.35-61.37	61.35-61.37	61.35-61.37	61.35-61.37
Frankfurt 11.2404-11.2412	11.2404-11.2412	11.2404-11.2412	11.2404-11.2412
Dublin 1.1044-1.1052	1.1044-1.1052	1.1044-1.1052	1.1044-1.1052
Frankfurt 2.9502-2.9510	2.9502-2.9510	2.9502-2.9510	2.9502-2.9510
London 2.0744-2.0752	2.0744-2.0752	2.0744-2.0752	2.0744-2.0752
Madrid 200.95-201.05	200.95-201.05	200.95-201.05	200.95-201.05
Milan 2141.31-2141.41	2141.31-2141.41	2141.31-2141.41	2141.31-2141.41
Paris 10.7702-10.7710	10.7702-10.7710	10.7702-10.7710	10.7702-10.7710
Porto 8.8252-8.8260	8.8252-8.8260	8.8252-8.8260	8.8252-8.8260
Stockholm 10.2946-10.2954	10.2946-10.2954	10.2946-10.2954	10.2946-10.2954
Tokyo 227.02-227.12	227.02-227.12	227.02-227.12	227.02-227.12
Vienna 20.75-20.85	20.75-20.85	20.75-20.85	20.75-20.85
Zurich 2.4038-2.4048	2.4038-2.4048	2.4038-2.4048	2.4038-2.4048

OTHER STERLING RATES

Base Rates %	Base Rates %	Base Rates %	Base Rates %
Clearing Banks 10	Clearing Banks 10	Clearing Banks 10	Clearing Banks 10
Finance House 9	Finance House 9	Finance House 9	Finance House 9
Discount Market Loans %	Discount Market Loans %	Discount Market Loans %	Discount Market Loans %
Overnight 10	Overnight 10	Overnight 10	Overnight 10
Week end 8	Week end 8	Week end 8	Week end 8
Treasury Bills (Discount %)	Treasury Bills (Discount %)	Treasury Bills (Discount %)	Treasury Bills (Discount %)
3 month 9	3 month 9	3 month 9	3 month 9
6 month 9	6 month 9	6 month 9	6 month 9
12 month 9	12 month 9	12 month 9	12 month 9
Prime Bank Bills (Discount %)	Prime Bank Bills (Discount %)	Prime Bank Bills (Discount %)	Prime Bank Bills (Discount %)
1 month 9	1 month 9	1 month 9	1 month 9
3 month 9	3 month 9	3 month 9	3 month 9
6 month 9	6 month 9	6 month 9	6 month 9
12 month 9	12 month 9	12 month 9	12 month 9
Trade Bills (Discount %)	Trade Bills (Discount %)	Trade Bills (Discount %)	Trade Bills (Discount %)
1 month 10	1 month 10	1 month 10	1 month 10
3 month 10	3 month 10	3 month 10	3 month 10
6 month 10	6 month 10	6 month 10	6 month 10
12 month 10	12 month 10	12 month 10	12 month 10

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

Base Rates %	Base Rates %	Base Rates %	Base Rates %
Clearing Banks 10	Clearing Banks 10	Clearing Banks 10	Clearing Banks 10
Finance House 9	Finance House 9	Finance House 9	Finance House 9
Discount Market Loans %	Discount Market Loans %	Discount Market Loans %	Discount Market Loans %
Overnight 10	Overnight 10	Overnight 10	Overnight 10
Week end 8	Week end 8	Week end 8	Week end 8
Treasury Bills (Discount %)	Treasury Bills (Discount %)	Treasury Bills (Discount %)	Treasury Bills (Discount %)
3 month 9	3 month 9	3 month 9	3 month 9
6 month 9	6 month 9	6 month 9	6 month 9
12 month 9	12 month 9	12 month 9	12 month 9
Prime Bank Bills (Discount %)	Prime Bank Bills (Discount %)	Prime Bank Bills (Discount %)	Prime Bank Bills (Discount %)
1 month 9	1 month 9	1 month 9	1 month 9
3 month 9	3 month 9	3 month 9	3 month 9
6 month 9	6 month 9	6 month 9	6 month 9
12 month 9	12 month 9	12 month 9	12 month 9
Trade Bills (Discount %)	Trade Bills (Discount %)	Trade Bills (Discount %)	Trade Bills (Discount %)
1 month 10	1 month 10	1 month 10	1 month 10
3 month 10	3 month 10	3 month 10	3 month 10
6 month 10	6 month 10	6 month 10	6 month 10
12 month 10	12 month 10	12 month 10	12 month 10

EURO MONEY DEPOSITS %

Base Rates %	Base Rates %	Base Rates %	Base Rates %
Clearing Banks 10	Clearing Banks 10	Clearing Banks 10	Clearing Banks 10
Finance House 9	Finance House 9	Finance House 9	Finance House 9
Discount Market Loans %	Discount Market Loans %	Discount Market Loans %	Discount Market Loans %
Overnight 10	Overnight 10	Overnight 10	Overnight 10
Week end 8	Week end 8	Week end 8	Week end 8
Treasury Bills (Discount %)	Treasury Bills (Discount %)	Treasury Bills (Discount %)	Treasury Bills (Discount %)
3 month 9	3 month 9	3 month 9	3 month 9
6 month 9	6 month 9	6 month 9	6 month 9
12 month 9	12 month 9	12 month 9	12 month 9
Prime Bank Bills (Discount %)	Prime Bank Bills (Discount %)	Prime Bank Bills (Discount %)	Prime Bank Bills (Discount %)
1 month 9	1 month 9	1 month 9	1 month 9
3 month 9	3 month 9	3 month 9	3 month 9
6 month 9	6 month 9	6 month 9	6 month 9
12 month 9	12 month 9	12 month 9	12 month 9
Trade Bills (Discount %)	Trade Bills (Discount %)	Trade Bills (Discount %)	Trade Bills (Discount %)
1 month 10	1 month 10	1 month 10	1 month 10
3 month 10	3 month 10	3 month 10	3 month 10
6 month 10	6 month 10	6 month 10	6 month 10
12 month 10	12 month 10	12 month 10	12 month 10

TREASURY BILLS

Base Rates %	Base Rates %	Base Rates %	Base Rates %
Clearing Banks 10	Clearing Banks 10	Clearing Banks 10	Clearing Banks 10
Finance House 9	Finance House 9	Finance House 9	Finance House 9
Discount Market Loans %	Discount Market Loans %	Discount Market Loans %	Discount Market Loans %
Overnight 10	Overnight 10	Overnight 10	Overnight 10
Week end 8	Week end 8	Week end 8	Week end 8
Treasury Bills (Discount %)	Treasury Bills (Discount %)	Treasury Bills (Discount %)	Treasury Bills (Discount %)
3 month 9	3 month 9	3 month 9	3 month 9
6 month 9	6 month 9	6 month 9	6 month 9
12 month 9	12 month 9	12 month 9	12 month 9
Prime Bank Bills (Discount %)	Prime Bank Bills (Discount %)	Prime Bank Bills (Discount %)	Prime Bank Bills (Discount %)
1 month 9	1 month 9	1 month 9	1 month 9
3 month 9	3 month 9	3 month 9	3 month 9
6 month 9	6 month 9	6 month 9	6 month 9
12 month 9	12 month 9	12 month 9	12 month 9
Trade Bills (Discount %)	Trade Bills (Discount %)	Trade Bills (Discount %)	Trade Bills (Discount %)
1 month 10	1 month 10	1 month 10	1 month 10
3 month 10	3 month 10	3 month 10	3 month 10
6 month 10	6 month 10	6 month 10	6 month 10
12 month 10	12 month 10	12 month 10	12 month 10

BASE LENDING RATES

Base Rates %	Base Rates %	Base Rates %	Base Rates %
Clearing Banks 10	Clearing Banks 10	Clearing Banks 10	Clearing Banks 10
Finance House 9	Finance House 9	Finance House 9	Finance House 9
Discount Market Loans %	Discount Market Loans %	Discount Market Loans %	Discount Market Loans %
Overnight 10	Overnight 10	Overnight 10	Overnight 10
Week end 8	Week end 8	Week end 8	Week end 8
Treasury Bills (Discount %)	Treasury Bills (Discount %)	Treasury Bills (Discount %)	Treasury Bills (Discount %)
3 month 9	3 month 9	3 month 9	3 month 9
6 month 9	6 month 9	6 month 9	6 month 9
12 month 9	12 month 9	12 month 9	12 month 9
Prime Bank Bills (Discount %)	Prime Bank Bills (Discount %)	Prime Bank Bills (Discount %)	Prime Bank Bills (Discount %)
1 month 9	1 month 9	1 month 9	1 month 9
3 month 9	3 month 9	3 month 9	3 month 9
6 month 9	6 month 9	6 month 9	6 month 9
12 month 9	12 month 9	12 month 9	12 month 9
Trade Bills (Discount %)	Trade Bills (Discount %)	Trade Bills (Discount %)	Trade Bills (Discount %)
1 month 10	1 month 10	1 month 10	1 month 10
3 month 10	3 month 10	3 month 10	3 month 10
6 month 10	6 month 10	6 month 10	6 month 10
12 month 10	12 month 10	12 month 10	12 month 10

BULLION

Base Rates %	Base Rates %	Base Rates %	Base Rates %
Clearing Banks 10	Clearing Banks 10	Clearing Banks 10	Clearing Banks 10
Finance House 9	Finance House 9	Finance House 9	Finance House 9
Discount Market Loans %	Discount Market Loans %	Discount Market Loans %	Discount Market Loans %
Overnight 10	Overnight 10	Overnight 10	Overnight 10
Week end 8	Week end 8	Week end 8	Week end 8
Treasury Bills (Discount %)	Treasury Bills (Discount %)	Treasury Bills (Discount %)	Treasury Bills (Discount %)
3 month 9	3 month 9	3 month 9	3 month 9
6 month 9	6 month 9	6 month 9	6 month 9
12 month 9	12 month 9	12 month 9	12 month 9
Prime Bank Bills (Discount %)	Prime Bank Bills (Discount %)	Prime Bank Bills (Discount %)	Prime Bank Bills (Discount %)
1 month 9	1 month 9	1 month 9	1 month 9
3 month 9	3 month 9	3 month 9	3 month 9
6 month 9	6 month 9	6 month 9	6 month 9
12 month 9	12 month 9	12 month 9	12 month 9
Trade Bills (Discount %)	Trade Bills (Discount %)	Trade Bills (Discount %)	Trade Bills (Discount %)
1 month 10	1 month 10	1 month 10	1 month 10
3 month 10	3 month 10	3 month 10	3 month 10
6 month 10	6 month 10	6 month 10	6 month 10
12 month 10	12 month 10	12 month 10	12 month 10

TREASURY BILLS

Base Rates %	Base Rates %	Base Rates %	Base Rates %
Clearing Banks 10	Clearing Banks 10	Clearing Banks 10	Clearing Banks 10
Finance House 9	Finance House 9	Finance House 9	Finance House 9
Discount Market Loans %	Discount Market Loans %	Discount Market Loans %	Discount Market Loans %
Overnight 10	Overnight 10	Overnight 10	Overnight 10
Week end 8	Week end 8	Week end 8	Week end 8
Treasury Bills (Discount %)	Treasury Bills (Discount %)	Treasury Bills (Discount %)	Treasury Bills (Discount %)
3 month 9	3 month 9	3 month 9	3 month 9
6 month 9	6 month 9	6 month 9	6 month 9
12 month 9	12 month 9	12 month 9	12 month 9
Prime Bank Bills (Discount %)	Prime Bank Bills (Discount %)	Prime Bank Bills (Discount %)	Prime Bank Bills (Discount %)
1 month 9	1 month 9	1 month 9	1 month 9
3 month 9	3 month 9	3 month 9	3 month 9
6 month 9	6 month 9	6 month 9	6 month 9
12 month 9	12 month 9	12 month 9	12 month 9
Trade Bills (Discount %)	Trade Bills (Discount %)	Trade Bills (Discount %)	Trade Bills (Discount %)
1 month 10	1 month 10	1 month 10	1 month 10
3 month 10	3 month		

Survey shows engineering optimism at five-year high

Britain's £4 billion civil engineering industry, its morale boosted by prospects for projects such as Canary Wharf and the Channel Tunnel, is at its most optimistic for at least five years.

Much more than half-companies in the industry are reporting markedly better order books than a year ago. A similar proportion say orders are now greater in value and volume than last summer.

Despite the boom, however, there is little immediate prospect of a big rise in the industry's 160,000 workforce. Most companies expect employment to remain steady, although 50 per cent of the medium-sized firms, employ-

ing 100-500 people, expect a rise.

The Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors (FCEC), which has been criticized for being over-cautious and playing down the growing level of business, conceded today on publication of its latest survey of workload trends that "the main feature to emerge is the marked upturn in the general workload position of the industry."

Mr Ron Emery, new director general of the FCEC, added: "Indications are that the industry has come out of

recession. But that does not mean that all its troubles are over. Margins are tight and competition for every contract remains extremely keen.

The roads programme, with more money pledged by the Government, the approval of the Sizewell nuclear power station in Suffolk, more British Rail spending, plus the tunnel and London Docklands work are all now more definite. "A couple of years ago these projects would have seemed dreams," said Mr Emery. "Now, they are the cause of the industry's new optimism."

Mr Emery rebutted allegations from *New Civil Engineer* magazine that the FCEC sur-

vey, being qualitative rather than quantitative, "lays it open to manipulation for political lobbying for more public spending and does not reflect the true nature of the industry."

In January last year, civil engineering had still been in the grip of recession, he said, with much spare capacity and tight margins. Only since January this year had there been signs of stability.

The industry, traditionally reliant on the public sector for 90 per cent of its work, has seen the proportion drop to 85 per cent, mostly because of increased private sector involvement in inner city regeneration.

Travel firms face new squeeze

By Derek Harris
Industrial Editor

The good news for consumers is that despite a late rush for peak-period package holidays abroad, there are still some available at discounts of about 25 per cent or more off brochure prices, especially for Spain.

But the August peak to the holiday season is bringing mixed tidings for tour operators. While prices are well above the giveaway ones in June, travel agents report continuing sales of holidays from leading tour operators because so much extra capacity has been added by companies such as Thomson Holidays, International Leisure Group, including Intasun, and Bass's Horizon.

But this may be the year smaller and medium-sized operators lose out. The market pattern until now has been for the big operators to sell out before the end of the high season, giving the others a chance to clear their shelves by meeting the late demand.

But travel agents say there is no sign yet of Thomson or Intasun running out of offers. The industry expects smaller operators with specialist niches not to suffer too much in August. The summer season is still expected to show an increase of up to 15 per cent on last year.

But there is speculation of more collapses among those still fighting for business at the volume end of the market. Two small operators went out of business earlier this season.

The question is how many second-rank operators next year may reconsider their operational strategies. Thomson and ILG between them account for more than half the package-tour market: it has been tough going even for them.

Mr Chris Watson, retail managing director of Pickfords Travel, one of the big three travel agency chains, said: "There is a very strong demand now in bookings we are up more than 50 per cent - but there are plenty of holidays to go around. But until three weeks ago the August bookings were up only 7 per cent; we have sold more holidays for September than for August. It is the biggest August hole in the market that I have ever seen."

Not all peak-season holidays are being discounted. Greek holidays are close to or at brochure prices.

But Spanish holidays offer a range of discounts.

ECONOMIC VIEW The City faces up to numbers steeplechase

Financial markets start the week in need of some reassurance. After having the rug pulled from under them in the most ignominious manner by Thursday's one-point rise in interest rates, investors will need a while to recover their poise. This week's obstacle race of economic indicators is, therefore, even more important than usual.

Today, the Department of Trade and Industry releases figures on producer prices for July. Rising oil and other commodity prices have caused growing caution about inflation worldwide, and today's figures will give some further insight into how far this is affecting industry in Britain.

July is expected to produce an increase in the prices paid by manufacturers for their raw materials and fuel of anything from 0.5 per cent to 2 per cent but the jump in the year-on-year rate will owe more to the fall in the oil price this time last year.

More critical will be tomorrow's trade figures. After a run of surpluses on current account, the deficit of £561 million recorded for May did more than anything to dispel the last traces of election euphoria. There is a fair degree of consensus among City forecasters that the June figures will be better than the previous month's, with the betting ranging from rough balance on current account to a deficit of one or two hundred million.

Imports in May may have been swollen by pre-election buying as sterling strengthened implying some bounce-back in June. But nobody can be quite sure what distortions, if any, the industrial action by Customs staff may have had.

A current account surplus would confirm the view that the May figures were seriously unrepresentative of the underlying trend. A deficit of more than one or two hundred million would be a strong "sell" signal.

Whatever tomorrow's figures reveal the majority of forecasters expect the current account to end up in deficit for the year, by anything up to £2 billion. But it is not just the size of any move into deficit which matters, it is how we arrive there.

A deficit arising from rampant buying of imported cars, videos and other consumer desiderata would be a very different matter from a strong rise in imports of capital goods caused by rising industrial investment. Both would undermine sterling, but investment would produce the continuing growth in productivity without which the current level of pay increases cannot possibly be justified.

Average earnings figures on Thursday will give the latest figures on what the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development called, with some restraint, in its review of Britain

last week "a major problem." Most forecasters expect the underlying rate in June to stay at 7½ per cent. If it goes up to 8 per cent, as for instance Greenwell Montagu expects, that will set alarm bells ringing about industry's unit costs and future competitiveness.

Also due on Thursday are figures for unemployment and industrial production. The number of adults out of work is expected to fall by another 30,000 seasonally adjusted, which is the average monthly fall over the past six months. But as James Capel points out the unadjusted total will probably go up by perhaps 20,000 as school-leavers start to join the register. Industrial production which grew strongly in May is expected to rise more slowly in June.

Latest information on inflation comes at the end of the week with the retail price index for July. A rise in inflation from 4.2 per cent in June to 4.4 per cent is widely predicted though there is some uncertainty over how much of the effect from the summer sales came into June and how much into July. This mid-summer hump in the inflation rate has long been discounted and unless expectations are badly upset the City will go on expecting inflation to be below 4 per cent again by the end of the year.

Looking beyond the narrow horizons of this week, forecasters are still deeply uncertain about whether the economy is reaching the top of a conventional business cycle or whether there has been an underlying improvement in the supply side. The OECD was obviously reluctant to believe in miracles and concluded in its review that the high level of pay settlements would inevitably undermine industry's competitiveness and put a brake on growth, which would fall to only 1½ per cent at an annual rate by the second half of next year.

The OECD forecasters may be right. But it is intriguing that they - with many other reputable forecasters - have consistently tended to under-estimate the rate of growth during the past few years. At the end of 1982, they were still predicting growth of only 1 per cent for the following year, which in the event turned out at 3.4 per cent. For 1984, their forecasts were in the 2.4-2.9 per cent range against an outcome of 3 per cent. For 1985, they gradually moved up from 2½ per cent to 3½ per cent and the outcome was 3½ per cent. Last year, they were predicting 2½ per cent as late as December against an estimated outcome of 3 per cent.

Although the past is the best guide to the future that we have, it is a very imperfect basis for forecasting if the underlying shape of the economy is radically changing.

Rodney Lord
Economics Editor

Industry's way to avoid CAB

Industrialists are about to get some instruction on how to avoid CAB by moving into CIM. It means knowing rather more about new technologies than just embracing CAD (Computer Aided Design) or CAM (Computer Aided Manufacturing).

CIM stands for Computer Integrated Manufacturing, which means all components of a plant being able to "talk" to each other. Where feasible, the systems used by suppliers should also be hooked up to that of a manufacturer.

CAB means computer aided bankruptcy and the joke is used by Mr Ronald Armstrong, director-general of the Production Engineering Research Association, to ram home the message of a new PIRA campaign to make industrialists weigh up the pros and cons of adopting CIM.

To bring this new awareness to senior managers is the job of ComCentre, the United Kingdom Centre for Communications Standards. It is sponsored by the Department of Trade and Industry and managed by PIRA.

Mr Armstrong said: "Senior managers are having to make decisions they feel ill-equipped to make. They either put off the decision or they go ahead on flimsy evidence, a process which has contributed much to both the demise of many of our traditional industries and to quite a few modern technological white elephants."

"What is needed is a much enhanced awareness at board level of the competitive advantages if new technology is used correctly."

Irish onshore oil probe 'promising'

By Robert Rodwell

Early returns from a new prospecting technique in a search for oil and gas beneath Northern Ireland's Magee Basin are "exciting and encouraging," says Ms Susan Morris, the consultant geologist overseeing the programme for North West Exploration, the Belfast prospector.

Ms Morris has brought in Integrated GeoScience, of Colorado, to use its deep transient electro-magnetic sounding (TEMS) to map the structures beneath the thick layers of Co Antrim basalt and Lough Neagh clays which cover North West's newly licensed 565-square mile Magee prospecting area.

The sedimentary layers of Sherwood sandstone are identical to the substructure of the Morecambe Bay gasfield.

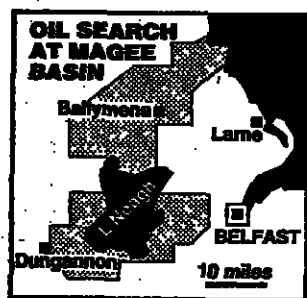
It is the first time the technique has been used in western Europe.

The dense basalt and heavy clays are almost impenetrable to the commonly used seismic soundings but are not unduly resistant to electrical impulses, she said.

TEMS has been used by Integrated GeoScience for Shell and Union Oil to probe for hydrocarbons beneath similar basalt layers in Washington and Oregon, but was largely developed in the Soviet Union.

It involves passing alternating electrical current through the ground from an electrical transmitter to receivers about four kilometres away, and measuring the substructure's electrical resistivity. Profiles of the geological structures can then be prepared.

The profile so far produced



in the half-completed seven-week survey shows a promising thickening of potentially oil-bearing sedimentary layers beneath the basalt and the clays as they dip beneath Lough Neagh, Ms Morris said.

The survey will enable her to pinpoint the most promising locations in the extensive basin for a series of boreholes on which drilling could begin as early as next spring, said both Ms Morris and North West's chief executive and the Duke of Abercorn, the chairman.

Before then the company, founded in 1980 - floated in 1984 and quoted on the Stock Exchange under Rule 535 - is expected to go to the market to raise more capital for its petroleum search and mineral prospecting ventures in Ireland and Western Australia.

There was an earlier share placing last December.

Among its mineral prospects are "shows" of gold in some of the 16 target areas in Co Donegal and the discovery of two thick layers of gypsum (the raw material of plasterboard) in Co Cavan, both in the Irish Republic.

These are of 82 per cent purity, compared with the 70 per cent in Britain's deposits.

ICCH lifts guarantee to £100m

By Colin Narbrough

The International Commodities Clearing House is reorganizing its operations into separate subsidiaries and raising its guarantee to £100 million. Mr John Barkshire, ICCH chairman, said.

The reorganization, expected to come into effect in November, has the unanimous support of the exchanges for which ICCH acts as a clearing agent. It also has the full endorsement of Barclays, Lloyds, Midland, National Westminster, Royal Bank of Scotland and Standard Chartered, the six banks which are ICCH's current shareholders.

The changes follow a review of all aspects of the ICCH operation in response to criticism in the markets about the way it operated.

The board decided on the reorganization following recommendations from an advisory committee of representatives from member exchanges, the ICCH management and Price Waterhouse, the accountants.

The clearing guarantee, previously supported by £15 million of ICCH capital, plus the assurances of unspecified backing from its owners, will be formalized at £100 million.

Mr Barkshire said the most significant changes were the separation of the Recognised Clearing House and the provision of a clearly defined and quantified guarantee.

The RCH will be responsible for the management and operation of the London guarantee, performing a similar function for the Australian and New Zealand exchanges.

Bank backs AIM buy-out

A computer systems company is changing hands in a management buy-out. AIM - Automatic Information Management which is being bought from its parent, William Jackson, the Hull food group - supplies office management systems for the legal profession. It has made profits of £328,000 on turnover of £7.2 million.

The buy-out is being backed by a financing package from Melville Street Investments, sometimes even visiting their offices. PENNY SHARE FOCUS helps you to spot the next Penny Share winner, and keeps you clear of the losers.

Most of these people are private investors. Many of them started with just a few hundred pounds. Few had any previous stockmarket experience. Some never buy any other sort of share. What is the secret of their success?

FANTASTIC GROWTH RECORD
Seventeen out of the top twenty performing shares this year (at 2.7.87) were Penny Shares. Here is a selection of the recent winners:

	from	to	gain
Acis-Jewellery	18p	310p	+1,633%
New Eng. Props.	12½p	70p	+508%
Excelbrite Jewellery	18p	97p	+438%
Regentrest	30p	240p	+515%
Amber Day	15p	90p	+500%
Sharna Ware	46p	250p	+479%
Humberstone Etn.	12p	60p	+402%
Energy Capital	15p	101p	+461%
Talbot	8p	47p	+456%
Hughes Foods	32p	150p	+364%

(Prices as at 2nd July 1987)

Imagine how much your capital would have increased if you had invested in any of these Penny Share winners. But where do you find them? After all, shares do not rise in value just because they are low priced.

Of course, if you had the time, and the know-how you could locate the potential winners and then complete a thorough investigation of the company.

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● A Sassenach industrialist, who shall remain nameless, tells the one about the Scotsman on his first visit to Spain hearing about *mañana* and being asked what the Gaelic equivalent was. There was nothing in the language, he is claimed to have said, with that degree of urgency. But, one feels, that hardly applies just to Gaelic.

Ray Heath

Targets of chairman Wolfson

Brian Wolfson, leader of the consortium which bought the Wembley Stadium complex, has among his many jobs the two-year chairmanship of the British Institute of Management and comes up to the halfway mark in the autumn as the institute celebrates its fortieth birthday.

BIM, the biggest organization of its kind in the world with 75,000 members, has certainly gained a new cutting edge from Wolfson, a mordant Merseysider. (Example: "You've heard of the velocity of money, well there's the velocity of jokes with a direct relationship between it and the economic condition of society. The more society is in a bad way, the higher the velocity of jokes.")

That is speaking only half risibly. The Wolfson message is very much that the time for talking about Britain's economic condition is over and that something needs to be done and fast. Britons ought to have a view of where they are going to be in 20 years as in Japan or America, Germany or wherever - and politicians should lead, he adds.

A shake-up to produce a new BIM management education and development strategy is now going on. He is cool about accountants, who, because of their large numbers, have had a "surrogate degree for management."

He says: "I have the highest regard for accountants but they are essentially score-keeping and generally they are not creative when it comes to the entrepreneurial approach."

The BIM leaders will be

THE TIMES CITY DIARY Days of tranquillity

The Investment Management Regulatory Organisation, which will police fund management, comes when the Financial Services Act comes into force, has had problems getting its message across lately - as its most recent bulletin to its prospective members explains. "Periods of atypical tranquillity have characterized the office's relationship with

scratching their heads soon over we might be approached to succeed Wolfson. How about a luminary among that newest style of manager: a successful management buy-out leader?

No free lunch
A group of policemen of a different kind are meeting this



Wednesday at the offices of Clerical Medical and General in Bristol. Compliance officers from insurance groups such as General Accident, Sun Life and Sun Alliance are getting together for exploratory discussions on ways of best conforming with the bureaucrats' dream - the Financial Services Act. Altogether 13 people, representing eight companies, will be present. "We want to keep it small so we can have a meaningful discussion and also because we wouldn't expect CM&G to provide lunch for the whole world," says Tony Pook, the General Accident compliance officer.

● Drexel's operations at London Fox (the revamped and relocated London Commodity Exchange, for readers still forced by the name) involves a team that was fined over the last six months to handle the newly-launched traded options contracts. A sign that Drexel is determined to get everything just right is the name of the man who leads its Fox team - Mark Fox-Andrews.

Boodle for Oodles

This may not be exactly the best time to launch a rights issue - ask Martin Sorrell of WPP, who had 65 per cent of his left with the underwriters - but Ronnie Aitken who runs the Oodles Restaurant chain is not deterred. Despite some sharp-shooting at his plans to raise £3.5 million from his shareholders, he expects to announce at an extraordinary shareholders' meeting today that underwriting for the issue has been completed. Doubts were raised when it was suggested that Sheppards and Chase had resigned as broker to the company, which caters to those wit of earthware pots. This was not so, but the broker is not leading the underwriting of the offer, admitted an Oodles aide. Getting the underwriting has not been cheap, he agreed, but in the market circumstances the company is satisfied with the arrangements. The money is backing for Oodles' bid for Dolamore, another restaurant chain whose products are aimed at a somewhat different clientele. Among its establishments are Bentley's Oyster Bar & Restaurant, off Piccadilly in London.

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UNLOCK THE SECRETS OF PENNY SHARE PROFITS

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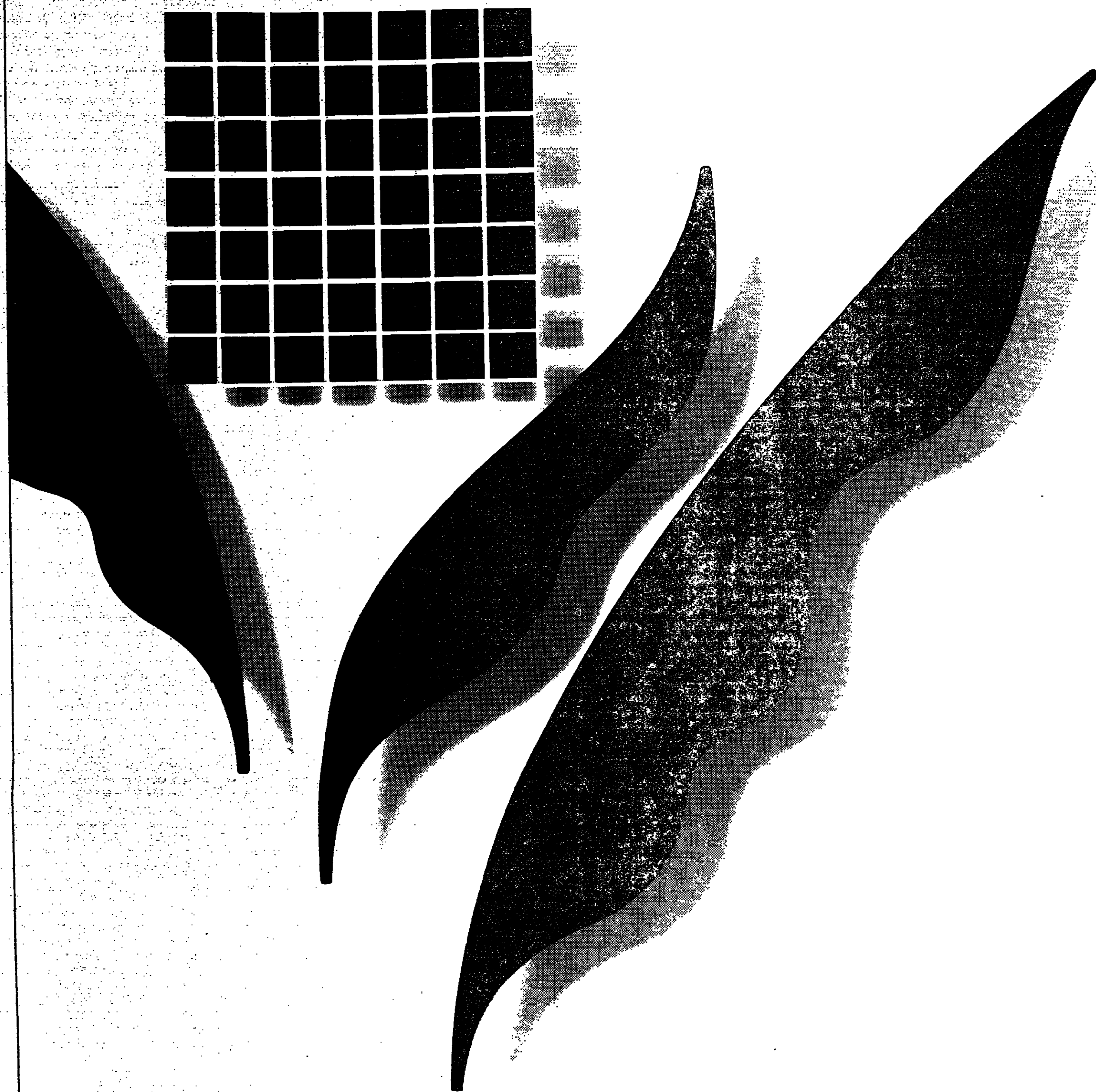
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Ideas bring growth to finance.

The birth of Ferruzzi Agricola Finanziaria.

In October 1985 Gruppo Ferruzzi set out its plans to create one of the biggest agro-industrial groups in the world, to extend its activities into new sectors and to expand into new continents. In less than two years Gruppo Ferruzzi has become the largest agro-industrial group in Europe and the third largest in the world. Furthermore it is the second private-sector industrial conglomerate in Italy with an aggregate turnover of over 18 billion dollars. The Group's idea to use agricultural products for industrial and energy uses, and its related programme for environmental protection is a focal point of international debate. The driving force behind this extraordinary expansion has been Agricola Finanziaria, the Group's holding company. Its success on the financial market has allowed it to make large-scale investments such as the acquisition of CPC Europe, leader in the starch sector, the acquisition of a controlling interest in Montedison and Béghin-Say, and the restructuring of the sugar sector which makes the Group Europe's leading sugar producer. The market capitalization of the Agricola Finanziaria group amounts to about 20 billion dollars.

And now it is time for it to grow even more. Agricola Finanziaria is increasingly identified with Gruppo Ferruzzi and so Ferruzzi Agricola Finanziaria has been born.

All the activities of the Group will converge in the new holding company so that in due course Ferruzzi Agricola Finanziaria and Gruppo Ferruzzi will form a single entity. Its theatre of operations is increasingly worldwide.

Ferruzzi Agricola Finanziaria will span five continents.

Its widely diversified activities follow a single vertical structure from agriculture to services, from trading to agro-industry, from chemicals to the advanced services sector and finally to numerous industrial and financial shareholdings. Ferruzzi Agricola Finanziaria will be quoted on all the main European Stock Exchanges including London and Paris. This will lead to a broad national and international shareholder base in line with the Group's importance. The cycle is in constant movement: two years ago ideas brought growth to finance. Today

Finance is bringing growth to ideas.



**Ferruzzi
Agricola Finanziaria**

1. The first step in the process is to identify the problem or issue that needs to be addressed. This involves gathering information and understanding the context of the problem.

FOOTBALL: MEMORABLE CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS TAINTED BY LEAGUE'S OWN LACK OF ORGANIZATIONAL FORESIGHT

Platini leaves rest in shade

By Stuart Jones
Football Correspondent

Football League 3
Rest of the World 0

The world was shifted on its axis on Saturday. The centre of attraction for the audience, assembled inside the national stadium for Wembley's showpiece and in front of television sets across the globe, was Maradona.

But he was left deep in the shade first by a colleague and then by the opposition. Platini had no right to be the individual to grace Maradona's stage. The midfield player, who is now aged 32, had emerged from retirement and interrupted a holiday to take part in the occasion. He did so to realize a dream. He had appeared in all of the world's famous arenas but never at Wembley.

Nor could the domestic side realistically have expected to achieve such a triumph against 15 of the game's most talented players. They did so, as Bobby Robson later stated, in spite of the restrictions thoughtlessly imposed on his selection by the typically misguided actions of the Football League.

"They should have said that this was a special occasion which took absolute priority," he said. "After all, how often do we celebrate a century?"

Hung Dang's day

Hung Dang, a former Vietnamese boat boy, was the hero for Young England as they beat Denmark 2-1 in the General Motors Challenge Under-16 match, which preceded the League Centenary game at Wembley. He scored both England goals.

They should have ordered clubs to release anyone I wanted and we should have been given three full days to prepare."

Robson also felt that the event should have been staged next month. As it was fitness, particularly of Terry Venables' squad, was as limited as public awareness. But the exhibition, in spite of the League's lack of organization and foresight, was before the interval at least a delight.

Platini's touch and anticipation were unreasonably immediate and precise. He and Linaker, who was withdrawn at half-time, carried the same mental tuning fork. Their understanding was instinctive enough to suggest that they had been secretly rehearsing their moves. Strangers though they were, together they threatened to dismantle the League's defence.

Leading by example: Bryan Robson, the captain of the Football League XI, slides in to tackle his more illustrious opponent

Venables thought that his "master" was wonderful. Bobby Robson described the premature departure of France's record goalscorer and three European Footballer of the Year as a "tragedy."

Platini himself, who is to become a television interviewer, was happy to end his career in a "beautiful way", even though he finished, unusually, as a loser.

The winners were Manchester United in disguise. Bryan Robson scored two goals. Whiteside the other and McGrath was indisputably the outstanding defender.

If Webb (alone uncapped among the starting line-ups) lifted himself even closer to the England team, Sansom and Waddle confirmed that they will remain substantial members of it.

Brady, the old man of the League, albeit a year younger than Platini, sprinkled characteristic Irish charm across an afternoon that Bobby Robson hailed as "a credit to Britain."

Unfortunately, when the substitutes came, the rhythm went. Bewilderingly, players

seemed to be exchanging places as often as the ball. Consequently, the atmosphere had subsided long before Eliajir struck almost the parting blow against the foot of a post.

But by then the glittering cast had reminded adults and shown children that the game can be skilfully subtle and gloriously entertaining without being fiercely competitive and breathtakingly quick.

Sadly, a section of the 61,000 crowd fouled the air of friendly generosity. The usual idiotic chants were compounded by the ceaseless booing of Maradona. In spite of his ugly reception, he enjoyed his lucrative "training session."

He provoked only one cheer — for committing an offence. It was handball.

FOOTBALL LEAGUE: P. Shilton (sub: S. O'Grady), R. Gould (sub: S. Charlton), K. Walters (sub: J. McGovern), P. McGrath, L. Brady (sub: P. Nanni), B. Robson, N. Webb (sub: D. Anderson), C. Allen (sub: M. Whiteside), P. Beardsley (sub: A. Smith), C. Waddle.

REST OF THE WORLD: R. Deschamps (sub: A. Zekater), J. Josimar (sub: L. Detari), C. Sosa (sub: D. Stojkovic), J. Alberto, G. Hysen, S. Sani (sub: A. C. Allen), M. Berthold, G. Linaker (sub: P. Eliajir), M. Platini (sub: P. Larsson), D. Maradona, P. Ferra (sub: Z. Zovner).
Referee: K. Hoekstra.

Rangers off to a shaky start

By a Special Correspondent

Rangers 1
Dundee United 1

Outside Ibrox on Saturday, one was immediately made aware of the great sense of expectancy that prevailed. Once again, the streets around Govan were awash with blue, and an almost evangelic fervour was brewing as queues jostled with each other, and 3 p.m. drew near.

That great optimism, however, ebbed away as soon as the 40,000 or so took up residence in the inner sanctum. The much awaited unfurling of the championship flag — it had been nine long years — did give rise to the kindred spirit, but once the football got underway, the home support knew the party was over.

Dundee United, as astute and technically proficient as ever, looked as if they might give Rangers the runaround, and it took the lead in the twelfth minute with a goal that was entirely in keeping with the run of play. Bannan split the Rangers' defence with a perfectly measured pass, and Beardsley was left to home in on goal and beat Woods, albeit at the second attempt.

These early stages were dire for Rangers, who clearly were missing the suspended trio of Ferguson, McBride and Robertson. So inchoate were their attempts at running in unison, that when Ferguson laid off a simple enough ball in the seventeenth minute, Phillips and Cohen virtually exchanged each other in their anxiety to get on with things.

It was not until after the half hour that Rangers got their first real shot at goal, when an unseemly scramble in the United half resulted in both McCosk and Kirkwood having efforts cleared off the line. McCosk was beginning to find his bearings and make some clever openings, but Falco, his striking partner, was getting little change from Hysen, the old soldier of United's defence.

The second half opened more brightly for Rangers, who managed to invoke something of the old Ibrox roar with a serious of lightning attacks. Durrant had arrived on the scene in place of Phillips, and his speed and header must have taken some point off the bar as it skimmed over.

Their equalizer finally came from a unique interaction between Falco and McCosk. The former at last managed a flick on, and as McCosk bore down on goal, Thompson raced out to upend him. The referee pointed immediately to the spot, and the little forward gathered himself to place the kick inside the right-hand post.

RANGERS: C. Woods, J. Nichol, S. Murray, J. Kirkwood (sub: R. Falco), A. Carter, V. McCosk, P. Phillips (sub: J. Durrant), D. Cooper, D. Hysen, W. Thompson, J. McNally, M. Malpass, D. Beardsley, P. Hysen, D. Nanny, A. Irvine (sub: J. Holt), D. Ferguson, F. E. Brown, H. Francis, J. Redford (sub: P. Kinnaird).
Referee: G. B. Smith.

European title for junior in mould of Foster

By Pat Butcher, Athletics Correspondent

Simon Muggleston typified the amateur British athlete who has made the most of the European junior championships, when he burst from the sedately running pack after only three laps of the 4,000 metres at Birmingham yesterday, sprinted into an immediate lead of 40 metres, built it up to 100 in the middle of the race, and hung on to win by 40 metres in 14min 12.83sec.

Past seniors, like Murray Halberg, Bruce Tulloh, and, more recently, Brendan Foster, have employed similar tactics, always in the middle of a race or later. And others, like Ron Clarke and David Bedford, have led from the start, but rarely has a more courageous impulse than Muggleston's burst acted upon among juniors or seniors, at home or abroad.

Muggleston admitted to a mid-race crisis as a result of the tactic. "I know I'm not a good finishing kicker, so I just went for home, and worked about it later. I've never done that in a race before. That lap was around 60 seconds, which is close to my 400 metres personal best. I felt a bit shaky in the last couple of laps. I saw the lead go from 100 to 60 metres. I've never been so pleased in my life before."

Muggleston is aware of the dangers of too much long running too young. And he is going to train the senior and junior teams at Sebastian Coe, who was a good junior at 3,000 metres, and who stepped down a distance or two, to great effect. Muggleston, who goes up to Hartford College, Oxford, to read geography in the autumn, intends to drop down to 800 and 1,500 metres in the senior ranks.

Marcus Adam more than made up for his disappointment with a fifth place in the 200 metres, when he was largely instrumental in Britain's victory in the 4 x 100 metres relay near the end of the four-day programme.

Adam was not quite so fast in his semi-final on Saturday, when he clocked 20.92sec, but he went under 21 seconds for the second time in his young career, when he repulsed the charge of Andrezej Poppa, from Poland, to make the title in 20.95sec. Jamie Henderson, whose 100 metres winning time was again revised, to 10.21sec this time, added a bronze medal, in 21.18sec.

The relay was a real cliff-hanger. The West Germans had the advantage of better baton changes, and the lead until the last stride. And if their anchor man had had the presence of mind to dip for the line, he might have prevented Adam's last split-second rescue operation. The British won by 0.01sec in 40.20sec.

Stephen Buckley's first round throw was sufficient to win the javelin, and add a field event win to the track domination. Buckley, who, like Henderson, is still eligible for the world junior championships in Canada next year, won with 75.14 metres.

RESULTS FROM BIRMINGHAM

Men: 200m: 1. M. Adam (GB), 20.95sec; 2. V. Zaslavskiy (USSR), 21.11; 3. J. Henderson (GB), 21.18. 400m: 1. P. Muggleston (GB), 14.12.83; 2. J. Henderson (GB), 14.20.83; 3. J. Poppa (POL), 14.28.83. 600m: 1. P. Muggleston (GB), 14.28.83; 2. J. Henderson (GB), 14.28.83; 3. J. Poppa (POL), 14.28.83. 800m: 1. P. Muggleston (GB), 14.28.83; 2. J. Henderson (GB), 14.28.83; 3. J. Poppa (POL), 14.28.83. 1,000m: 1. P. Muggleston (GB), 14.28.83; 2. J. Henderson (GB), 14.28.83; 3. J. Poppa (POL), 14.28.83. 1,200m: 1. P. Muggleston (GB), 14.28.83; 2. J. Henderson (GB), 14.28.83; 3. J. Poppa (POL), 14.28.83. 1,400m: 1. P. Muggleston (GB), 14.28.83; 2. J. Henderson (GB), 14.28.83; 3. J. Poppa (POL), 14.28.83. 1,600m: 1. P. Muggleston (GB), 14.28.83; 2. J. Henderson (GB), 14.28.83; 3. J. Poppa (POL), 14.28.83. 1,800m: 1. P. Muggleston (GB), 14.28.83; 2. J. Henderson (GB), 14.28.83; 3. J. Poppa (POL), 14.28.83. 2,000m: 1. P. Muggleston (GB), 14.28.83; 2. J. Henderson (GB), 14.28.83; 3. J. 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Game's finest pairing spin a tale of woe for England

By Alan Lee

Mike Gatting has always doggedly excluded public criticism of players from his captaincy portfolio, so when he lowers his guard sufficiently to admit even "slight disappointment" with two individuals it is time to investigate.

The men in question are the spin bowlers, John Emburey and Phil Edmonds, and while it makes no sense to hold them responsible for England's imprisoned state in the final Cornhill Test, Gatting is far from alone in believing that things would not appear quite so hopeless but for their ineptitude in the early stages of the match.

Emburey and Edmonds shared 93 overs in Pakistan's 14-hour first innings, failed to take a wicket between them and conceded 240 runs. By contrast, the Pakistan spinners, Qadir and Tauseef, have so far taken three wickets in only 27 overs as England, tunnelling blindly towards the distant escape target of 500, spent a gloomy weekend at 144 for four.

Gatting, who captains the pair at county level too, screwed up his face and, it seemed, took a mental deep breath before conceding: "They would not be all that happy with the way they bowled. The pitch was not so helpful on the first two days but, even so, they should have given away far fewer runs. They lost their control and I think they both accept that."

Mickey Stewart, the team

THE OVAL SCOREBOARD

PAKISTAN won toss

PAKISTAN FIRST INNINGS	
MUDASARR NAZAR c Moxon b Botham	73
RAMIZ RAJA b Botham	14
IMRAN KHAN c Gower b Botham	118
SAJID MALIK c Gower b Botham	102
ABDUL QADIR c Gower b Botham	69
IAZ AHMED c Moxon b Dillley	42
SALEEM YOUSUF c and b Dillley	42
ABDUL QADIR c Moxon b Dillley	20
ABDUL QADIR c Moxon b Dillley	20
Extras (b 2, lb 2)	20
Total (220.3 overs)	708

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-40 (2); 2-45 (3); 3-148 (11); 4-382 (35); 5-573 (41); 6-801 (77); 7-880 (97); 8-907 (107); 9-907 (107); 10-907 (107); 11-907 (107); 12-907 (107); 13-907 (107); 14-907 (107); 15-907 (107); 16-907 (107); 17-907 (107); 18-907 (107); 19-907 (107); 20-907 (107); 21-907 (107); 22-907 (107); 23-907 (107); 24-907 (107); 25-907 (107); 26-907 (107); 27-907 (107); 28-907 (107); 29-907 (107); 30-907 (107); 31-907 (107); 32-907 (107); 33-907 (107); 34-907 (107); 35-907 (107); 36-907 (107); 37-907 (107); 38-907 (107); 39-907 (107); 40-907 (107); 41-907 (107); 42-907 (107); 43-907 (107); 44-907 (107); 45-907 (107); 46-907 (107); 47-907 (107); 48-907 (107); 49-907 (107); 50-907 (107); 51-907 (107); 52-907 (107); 53-907 (107); 54-907 (107); 55-907 (107); 56-907 (107); 57-907 (107); 58-907 (107); 59-907 (107); 60-907 (107); 61-907 (107); 62-907 (107); 63-907 (107); 64-907 (107); 65-907 (107); 66-907 (107); 67-907 (107); 68-907 (107); 69-907 (107); 70-907 (107); 71-907 (107); 72-907 (107); 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World XI foiled by Hick after superb century from Jones

By Richard Streeton

ARUNDEL: Lavinia, Duchess of Norfolk's XI beat a Rest of the World XI by five wickets. Dean Jones, the gifted Australian batsman, made a glorious 143 not out here yesterday as the Rest of the World XI played their first warm-up game for the MCC's bi-centenary match on Thursday week. Jones helped his side reach 262 for four in 55 overs, though they went on to lose a rain-affected match.

The weather reduced the target needed by Lavinia, Duchess of Norfolk's XI to 168 in 35 overs and a forceful 85 not out by Graeme Hick, Worcestershire's Zimbabwe-born batsman, brought victory with 13 balls to spare.

Jones's power and timing were remarkable for someone still recovering from knee surgery and who was also playing out of season. Some of his drives fairly scorched over his immaculate outfield and most his 20 fours went past mid-off or mid-on.

Three weeks ago he was passed fit to take his place in the Rest of the World team. Apart from a few nets and last week's Jesmond festival, Jones has not had a bat in his hand since the Australian season ended.

Jones, aged 26, had a few weeks with a Yorkshire league club in 1984, but was an unexpected omission from the Australian team which toured

England a year later. Yesterday's innings - at Arundel was the first proper sight for English spectators of a dazzling talent that seems certain to provide English bowlers with problems for many years ahead.

The Duchess's XI were not especially strong in bowling but the cricket was always played with more serious intent than sometimes on these occasions. Mike Brearley, the former England captain, led the home team.

Worcestershire, the only county without a Sunday league fixture, provided five players, and an unexpected African, Vincent van der Bijl, who is briefly in England on a business course.

It was the World XI's players, of course, who attracted the 3,000 plus crowd. Hardly any of them are attached to English counties as there was always an atmosphere of reunion in the air. Gavaskar and Kapil Dev, the two leading Indians, were the main attraction for auto-graph hunters.

Gavaskar and Haynes gave the World XI a sound start before the West Indian was leg-before to Merry, the former Middlesex bowler. Gavaskar fell to a marvellous catch at square-leg by Neale off Pocock.

Jones then dominated stands of 97 with Border and 86 with Dujon as the innings

reached its full quota of overs. Border looked solid as a rock as he first allowed his compatriot his head and then decided to give others a chance. Kapil was bowled by one of Woolmer's famous wobblers before Dujon stayed as Jones reached his century out of 199.

Two heavy rainstorms brought interruptions when the Duchess's XI batted. Three wickets quickly fell before Hick and Neale shared a confident stand. With 50 wanted in ten overs, Kapil bowled Neale and Newport in the same over. But there was no stopping Hick, who finished with a six and eight fours.

Best of the World XI
S M Grewal c (Hick) b Merry 38
D L Haynes bow b Merry 18
D L Haynes not out 19
A R Border b Pocock 29
Kapil Dev bow b Woolmer 11
J P Dujon not out 11
Extras (10, 10, 2) 22
Total (4 wickets, 55 overs) 262
J G Brearley, Mendenhall, Singh, J R Haynes, S A Field and K W McLeod did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-48, 2-52, 3-148, 4-176.
BOWLING: Newport 8-1-37; Van der Bijl 10-1-38; Merry 10-1-55; Pocock 13-1-51; Hick 8-0-7; Woolmer 8-0-31.

DUCHESS OF NORFOLK'S XI
R A Woolmer bow b Kapil Dev 45
R A Woolmer not out 16
G A Hick not out 85
D B O'Connell c Dujon b McLeod 20
D B Neale b Hick 11
J M Brearley not out 11
Extras (0, 1, 0, 0, 1, 0, 3) 5
Total (5 wickets, 32.5 overs) 168

CFA Grewal, P Pocock, VAP Van der Bijl and W G Merry did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-4, 2-40, 3-51, 4-118, 5-118.
BOWLING: Kapil Dev 8-0-38; Neale 8-0-39; McLeod 10-0-47; Mendenhall Singh 5-1-37.

Umpires: C Cook, J E Langridge.

Walsh packs the Sunday punch

By Ian Stafford

Gloucestershire improved their championship chances at the expense of Kent's own challenge at Cheltenham yesterday in the Refuge Assurance Sunday League. Although Benson scored 50, his fourth Sunday half-century this summer, Kent found the home team's bowling tight and mustered a modest 193 for nine in their allotted overs.

All the wickets fell to catches. The West Indian pace bowler, Courtney Walsh, returned with impressive figures of four for 19, his second four-wicket haul of the season. In reply Gloucestershire comfortably met their target, their 194 for five being scored with more than three overs to spare.

Middlesex lost yet another Sunday game at Lords, this time against Lancashire who beat them in a rain-restricted match on a faster scoring rate. A 56 from the veteran, Radley, and a useful 41 from Brown saw Middlesex to 184 for six in their 40 overs but after the eleventh

REFUGE ASSURANCE SUNDAY LEAGUE

Team	W	L	T	N	P	Pts
Nottingham	11	7	1	1	0	34
Warwick	12	7	2	1	0	32
Worcestershire	12	7	2	1	0	30
Gloucestershire	11	8	4	1	0	28
Leicestershire	11	8	4	1	0	26
Derbyshire	11	8	4	1	0	24
Lancashire	11	8	4	1	0	24
Northamptonshire	11	8	4	1	0	24
Yorkshire	11	8	4	1	0	22
Gloucestershire	11	8	4	1	0	22
Lancashire	11	8	4	1	0	22
Derbyshire	11	8	4	1	0	22
Warwick	11	8	4	1	0	22
Worcestershire	11	8	4	1	0	22
Leicestershire	11	8	4	1	0	22
Derbyshire	11	8	4	1	0	22
Lancashire	11	8	4	1	0	22
Northamptonshire	11	8	4	1	0	22
Yorkshire	11	8	4	1	0	22

1986 positions in brackets

had interrupted play the visitors were set 152 off 33 overs. This they achieved in the penultimate over.

In another rain affected match Gloucestershire dealt a severe blow to Hampshire's chances of retaining the title, again by winning on a faster scoring rate. A 56 from the veteran, Radley, and a useful 41 from Brown saw Middlesex to 184 for six in their 40 overs but after the eleventh

YESTERDAY'S OTHER SCORBOARDS

Middlesex v Lancs

LORDS: Lancashire won (last) Lancashire (44) beat Middlesex by 4 wickets in rain-affected match.

Gloucestershire v Kent

CHELTENHAM: Gloucestershire won (last) Gloucestershire (194) beat Kent by 10 wickets in rain-affected match.

Warwickshire v Leicestershire

WARWICK: Warwickshire won (last) Warwickshire (194) beat Leicestershire by 10 wickets in rain-affected match.

Derbyshire v Lancashire

DERBY: Lancashire won (last) Lancashire (194) beat Derbyshire by 10 wickets in rain-affected match.

Northamptonshire v Yorkshire

KNATTSBURGH: Northamptonshire won (last) Northamptonshire (194) beat Yorkshire by 10 wickets in rain-affected match.

Worcestershire v Gloucestershire

ARUNDEL: Gloucestershire won (last) Gloucestershire (194) beat Worcestershire by 10 wickets in rain-affected match.

Leicestershire v Warwickshire

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Rain ruins the day for Surrey

By Mick Cleary

Third-placed Surrey were so keen to get their Refuge Assurance League match against Surrey at Cheltenham yesterday, and so perhaps a little over-enthusiastic, that they played the match in the middle of the rain, and so they lost it. There was no more than a length between the first five crews as they flashed across the finishing line with Britain in fourth place 17/100ths of a second off a bronze medal. The United States were winners for the first time and France finished second.

With the final four games all at home, Kim Barnett, the Derbyshire captain, was determined to get a start, especially with his two key fast medium bowlers, Paul Newman and Alan Warner, fit again and available for selection. The two had been missing in the recent Sunday defeat against Middlesex and Kent.

Fifth-placed Surrey would also have welcomed the chance of four points. All the valiant efforts to get play started were to be in vain, however, as the heavens opened over Queen's Park.

Saracens taste the wine cup

By Ivo Tennant

VINCENT SQUARE (Old Cliftonians won twice): Shrewsbury Saracens beat Old Cliftonians by 38 runs.

The experience of Shrewsbury Saracens, who included three former county cricketers in their side, proved decisive yesterday in the 21st final of The Cricketers Cup, sponsored by Motet et Chateau. Their prize is a trip to Garmy, France, in the autumn when yet more champagne will be consumed.

Shrewsbury had won the cup once before, in 1977; recognition for Cliftonians had only come through play in one of their matches last year being stopped by a passing seagull dropping a fish on to the pitch. Thus was history created.

The standard of the competition can be gauged by the number of county cricketers who have taken part - 101 at the last count, including England's Test captain, Ian Botham, who was in the side for Colin Cowdrey, the president of MCC, whose recuperation prevented his presenting the cup, and Pocock and Lamb, until recently with Hampshire and Northamptonshire respectively.

One gave Shrewsbury's innings aspects when it was rather bogged down; the other bowled within himself but took important wickets, including that of Trembath, Cliftonians best batsman.

To win Cliftonians had to make one of the highest scores by a side batting second, requiring 100 off the last 22 overs.

SCORES: Shrewsbury Saracens 184 for 7 (55 overs) D J Pople 52, N E J Pople 41, Old Cliftonians 136 (50 overs) (T M Lamb 4-17).

Rowing Coxless four take gold on the line

From Jim Ralston Cologne

Britain won their first gold medal in the world junior rowing championships, on the Fühlingen Lake in Cologne yesterday, the men's coxless four inching ahead of the Soviet crew just before the finish line.

The British had been extremely impressive in winning their heat on Wednesday, gaining a place in the final at their first attempt and sending the Soviet Union and East Germany to the repechages.

Predictably, both of them survived the repechages to threaten the British yet again together with Italy, West Germany and Poland in yesterday's final. It was a very tough field with some exceptional four.

The British - Toby Hessian, Timothy Foster, Jonathan Searle and Robert Obholzer - had quite a burden on their young shoulders. Britain had won the silver medal in this event in the last two years and Jonathan Searle was a survivor from last year's crew. A gold medal was well overdue.

They set off, posting their intent from the first stroke with an incredible rate of 48 in their opening sprint. Their rowing cadence was never below 40 over the whole 1500 metre course.

Once again the Soviet and East German set a blistering pace for which they were to pay the penalty. At 500 metres, Britain were fifth over a length down on the Soviet Union but with 500 metres to go they had passed Poland and West Germany and were overlapping East Germany and the Soviet Union. Two hundred metres from the finish and suddenly East Germany withered. The British wound their way up again for a final surge while the Soviet Union tried but had nothing left.

It was timed to perfection. Twenty metres from the line the Britons' bows inched ahead for the first time and they crossed the line for a famous victory just 24/100ths of a second ahead of the Soviet Union with East Germany taking the bronze almost two lengths back.

After the medal ceremony the British four lunched near the finish to watch their eight-oared rivals, the Soviet Union, the United States and East and West Germany. It was a brilliant finish with the six eights stampeding down the course.

Dominic Neary, the British stroke, had his crew up to 44 strokes per minute as they finished but they just lost out. There was no more than a length between the first five crews as they flashed across the finishing line with Britain in fourth place 17/100ths of a second off a bronze medal. The United States were winners for the first time and France finished second.

RESULTS: Junior Men's Coxless Four: 1. Soviet Union 5:12.25sec; 2. Great Britain 5:12.73sec; 3. East Germany 5:13.01sec; 4. United States 5:13.01sec; 5. France 5:13.01sec; 6. West Germany 5:13.01sec; 7. Poland 5:13.01sec; 8. East Germany 5:13.01sec; 9. Soviet Union 5:13.01sec; 10. France 5:13.01sec; 11. West Germany 5:13.01sec; 12. Poland 5:13.01sec; 13. East Germany 5:13.01sec; 14. Soviet Union 5:13.01sec; 15. France 5:13.01sec; 16. West Germany 5:13.01sec; 17. Poland 5:13.01sec; 18. East Germany 5:13.01sec; 19. Soviet Union 5:13.01sec; 20. France 5:13.01sec; 21. West Germany 5:13.01sec; 22. Poland 5:13.01sec; 23. East Germany 5:13.01sec; 24. Soviet Union 5:13.01sec; 25. France 5:13.01sec; 26. West Germany 5:13.01sec; 27. Poland 5:13.01sec; 28. East Germany 5:13.01sec; 29. Soviet Union 5:13.01sec; 30. France 5:13.01sec; 31. West Germany 5:13.01sec; 32. Poland 5:13.01sec; 33. East Germany 5:13.01sec; 34. Soviet Union 5:13.01sec; 35. France 5:13.01sec; 36. West Germany 5:13.01sec; 37. Poland 5:13.01sec; 38. East Germany 5:13.01sec; 39. Soviet Union 5:13.01sec; 40. France 5:13.01sec; 41. West Germany 5:13.01sec; 42. Poland 5:13.01sec; 43. East Germany 5:13.01sec; 44. Soviet Union 5:13.01sec; 45. France 5:13.01sec; 46. West Germany 5:13.01sec; 47. Poland 5:13.01sec; 48. East Germany 5:13.01sec; 49. Soviet Union 5:13.01sec; 50. France 5:13.01sec; 51. West Germany 5:13.01sec; 52. Poland 5:13.01sec; 53. East Germany 5:13.01sec; 54. Soviet Union 5:13.01sec; 55. France 5:13.01sec; 56. West Germany 5:13.01sec; 57. Poland 5:13.01sec; 58. East Germany 5:13.01sec; 59. Soviet Union 5:13.01sec; 60. France 5:13.01sec; 61. West Germany 5:13.01sec; 62. Poland 5:13.01sec; 63. East Germany 5:13.01sec; 64. Soviet Union 5:13.01sec; 65. France 5:13.01sec; 66. West Germany 5:13.01sec; 67. Poland 5:13.01sec; 68. East Germany 5:13.01sec; 69. Soviet Union 5:13.01sec; 70. France 5:13.01sec; 71. West Germany 5:13.01sec; 72. Poland 5:13.01sec; 73. East Germany 5:13.01sec; 74. Soviet Union 5:13.01sec; 75. France 5:13.01sec; 76. West Germany 5:13.01sec; 77. Poland 5:13.01sec; 78. East Germany 5:13.01sec; 79. Soviet Union 5:13.01sec; 80. France 5:13.01sec; 81. West Germany 5:13.01sec; 82. Poland 5:13.01sec; 83. East Germany 5:13.01sec; 84. Soviet Union 5:13.01sec; 85. France 5:13.01sec; 86. West Germany 5:13.01sec; 87. Poland 5:13.01sec; 88. East Germany 5:13.01sec; 89. Soviet Union 5:13.01sec; 90. France 5:13.01sec; 91. West Germany 5:13.01sec; 92. Poland 5:13.01sec; 93. East Germany 5:13.01sec; 94. Soviet Union 5:13.01sec; 95. France 5:13.01sec; 96. West Germany 5:13.01sec; 97. Poland 5:13.01sec; 98. East Germany 5:13.01sec; 99. Soviet Union 5:13.01sec; 100. France 5:13.01sec; 101. West Germany 5:13.01sec; 102. Poland 5:13.01sec; 103. East Germany 5:13.01sec; 104. Soviet Union 5:13.01sec; 105. France 5:13.01sec; 106. West Germany 5:13.01sec; 107. Poland 5:13.01sec; 108. East Germany 5:13.01sec; 109. Soviet Union 5:13.01sec; 110. France 5:13.01sec; 111. West Germany 5:13.01sec; 112. Poland 5:13.01sec; 113. East Germany 5:13.01sec; 114. Soviet Union 5:13.01sec; 115. France 5:13.01sec; 116. West Germany 5:13.01sec; 117. Poland 5:13.01sec; 118. East Germany 5:13.01sec; 119. Soviet Union 5:13.01sec; 120. France 5:13.01sec; 121. West Germany 5:13.01sec; 122. Poland 5:13.01sec; 123. East Germany 5:13.01sec; 124. Soviet Union 5:13.01sec; 125. France 5:13.01sec; 126. West Germany 5:13.01sec; 127. Poland 5:13.01sec; 128. East Germany 5:13.01sec; 129. Soviet Union 5:13.01sec; 130. France 5:13.01sec; 131. West Germany 5:13.01sec; 132. Poland 5:13.01sec; 133. East Germany 5:13.01sec; 134. Soviet Union 5:13.01sec; 135. France 5:13.01sec; 136. West Germany 5:13.01sec; 137. Poland 5:13.01sec; 138. East Germany 5:13.01sec; 139. Soviet Union 5:13.01sec; 140. France 5:13.01sec; 141. West Germany 5:13.01sec; 142. Poland 5:13.01sec; 143. East Germany 5:13.01sec; 144. Soviet Union 5:13.01sec; 145. France 5:13.01sec; 146. West Germany 5:13.01sec; 147. Poland 5:13.01sec; 148. East Germany

Oval world spinning out of control

By John Woodcock
Cricket Correspondent

Even the honourable draw which is all England can now aspire to in the fifth Test match at the Oval, sponsored by Cornhill Insurance, was a long way off when bad light ended play soon after five o'clock on Saturday. Confronted by Pakistan's 708, the sixth-highest total ever made in Test cricket, England were 144 for four, still needing a little more of 365 to avoid the follow-on.

The only slight snag for Pakistan is that Abdul Qadir, described by his captain as their "main weapon", has twice been warned for following through in front of the stumps. If he does it a third time in England's first innings he will have to come off until they bat again.

Speaking after play on Saturday, Imran felt the warnings given to Qadir by the umpire Constant were quite justified, though he was sorry he had not been told that the second was imminent. This seemed a fair point. Pakistan's manager was predictably less helpful, questioning how anyone bowling in crepe soles, as Qadir was, could possibly damage a pitch, though the evidence is there for him to see.

To keep out of further trouble, Qadir went round the wicket, which he prefers not to do other than as a defensive measure. Nothing brings a game to a standstill more effectively than for a leg spinner to bowl into the rough outside a right-handed

batsman's leg stump and for the batsman, protected by the 1-b-w law, to allow the ball to hit him with impunity.

Qadir's follow-through has given him problems before, in Pakistan as elsewhere. As a way round it today Imran will consider bowling him for the rest of England's present innings at the umpire Palmer's (that is, the Vauxhall) end. Not that Palmer's interpretation is likely to be any different from Constant's.

Just before tea on Saturday England were 78 for four. But getting was already doing his best to hold things together and Botham then batted as though the idea of accumulating a big score instead of trying to hit the ball out of sight rather appealed to him. These two had added 66 together when Imran made quite certain that play would be suspended for the day by bowling himself when the umpires were already playing games with their light meters.

Had an England captain done the same, with a lead of 564, a side as fresh as Pakistan's and enjoying themselves as much, and before a full house, I should have had a job to contain myself. Qadir had a long bowl, certainly, and he had his warnings to worry about; but Tauseef was embarking on a tidy spell of off breaks and Mudassar, who had not been used, could have got away with the lot.

Not for over 50 years — since the days, in fact, when Bradman was king — can a visiting side to the Oval have felt so amply

Hectic homecoming awaits Pakistanis

A tumultuous welcome awaits the Pakistan cricket team when they fly home after winning a Test series in England for the first time (Qamar Ahmed writes).

Arrangements are already underway for a ticker-tape reception, and other tributes are being organized by various cricket associations and commercial organisations. In the winter of 1986, when the Pakistan team returned home after winning a Test series in India for the first time, there were hysterical scenes as crowd of 70,000 surrounded Lahore airport.

gratified as the Pakistanis must have as they saw their enormous total taking shape. They may, for their part, sense that some still see them as being not quite a front-line cricketing power. Had they felt inclined to score 1,000 on Saturday, you could have understood it.

If it is any consolation to England, some good sides led by good captains have had to find difficulty in the past containing batsmen as proficient as Pakistan's at the Oval. Ask Bradman, the most famous captain of them all! It was there in 1938 that England scored 903 for seven declared under his captaincy, on the same strip of ground, and that Fleetwood-Smith took one for 298 in 87 overs.

Even the great O'Reilly's figures were three for 178. Botham's were three for 217. Never before has an Englishman conceded so many runs in a Test innings. The previous record, if it can be called that, was held by Ian Peebles, whose bowling against Australia at the Oval in 1930, when he took six for 204 in 71 overs of leg breaks and googlies, was described by Sir Pelham Warner as being "admirable and persistent".

What I would have difficulty believing is that an England attack has ever looked so bereft of imagination and control as Gatting's in trying to prevent what was happening. Barring on Saturday was nothing like as easy as it had been on the first two days. There was a lot of thin cloud and the ball moved around. Yet the best idea Botham could come up with was to bowl to two long legs in the hope that someone might miscue a long hop or attempted bouncer.

After a while Dilley did start to beat the bat and it was he who eventually put an end to England's embarrassment by taking Pakistan's last four wickets for one run. Foster's absence from the first afternoon onwards was a bad and unavoidable blow to England; but the suggestion of their spinners had nothing to do with misfortune. In 107 overs in the series Embury has not taken a wicket.

Pakistan's innings was a great joy to anyone with the slightest taste for statistics. Only once before — at Lord's in 1930 — had

England conceded more runs. Of the five higher totals to have been made in Test cricket, three were at Sabina Park in Jamaica, where the straight boundaries barely accommodate some bowlers' run-ups. In 1929-30, in a Test match there between England and West Indies, Sandham at the age of 39 scored 325 and Wilfred Rhodes, then 52, bowled 44.5 overs for 39 runs.

In the two overs England had for batting before lunch on Saturday they lost Broad, caught at the wicket off what to him was a big outswinger from Imran. By tea Qadir had had Moxon caught at slip, driving at a wide half-volley, and bowled Robinson, hooking at a long hop. When Gower was also the agent of his own dismissal — he gave himself no time for reconnaissance against Tauseef — England were still 630 behind with Embury in next. But Gatting was splendid, defending as though his life depended on it, yet scoring 30 in a defiant 20-minute burst against the spin of Qadir and Tauseef immediately after tea.

At Edgbaston a fortnight ago Gatting and Botham were also not out over the weekend. After 35 minutes on the Monday morning Botham fell to a rash stroke; but Gatting went on to make a hundred. Today Botham has a great chance to do better than that. If he fails to take it the urge to bring him back next year will be that much weaker. Although there is no way England can win it, the match still promises some interesting and consequential cricket.

END COLUMN

Football dying with its boots on

By Simon Barnes

To spend the weekend at Wembley Stadium as a football fan is like being asked an A-level question: the sort that begins "Compare and contrast the following". On Saturday we had the old game: a match to celebrate the centenary of the Football League. And on Sunday we had the new one: American football, the game that has been a *sacred cow* over the past couple of years.

It cannot be said that the football establishment looks on the American import as a serious rival. Indeed, it cannot be said with any certainty that the football establishment has noticed that there has been any change in the national way of life since 1966.

Sports people, perhaps especially British sports people, do not seem aware that history is a continuing process. So many of them act as if history came to a full stop a couple of decades ago and that nothing of any further significance can possibly happen. Football rattles along with assumptions based on the attitudes and the esteem in which the game was held years ago.

The format of professional football is ludicrously outdated. The recent attempts at reform have all been half-cocked, sticking in the mud of provincial self-interest and demonstrating a perfect blindness to the concept of change.

Indeed, the sport still fails about arguing whether or not television is a Good Thing. They even banned the cameras from the grounds a couple of years back, not having worked out that these days major professional sports need television as a light needs electricity.

No one inside football seems to think the Heydel made much difference to the way people see the game. But the fact is that after Heydel no one could ignore any longer the fact that football, violence and manhandling xenophobia were now, as they had been for some time, an inescapable part of football. On Saturday Maradona, of Argentina, was booed every time he touched the ball in a match that was supposed to celebrate football's internationalism.

And so in 1985 we had the horrors of Heydel and no football on television while every week Channel 4 was giving us the most marvellous packaged version of American football, a game that has walked hand in hand with television for years.

And while British soccer had become a game increasingly devoid of the sort of personalities that cheer you up, in 1985 up stepped William "The Refrigerator" Perry, of the Chicago Bears: a natural television star. American football was suddenly giving us all the fun that our own game had been conspicuously failing to offer.

The traditionalists believe that the new-found taste for the American game is no more than a fad: that without roots, the game will not keep its hold. Others believe that before long there will be a London-based team commuting across the Atlantic to play in the National Football League.

The only prediction I can make with any certainty is that things will not stay as they are. Everything changes, all the time, every day; yet history is still going on. Sport may resist this but things change in sport faster than they do in most areas: this is one of sport's pleasures.

Cricket 20 years ago was in a trough but now the best-known sportsman in England is a cricketer. Football 20 years ago was the most popular and most chic game in the land: now the game has never been held in lower esteem.

Is it, then, surprising that American football has gone bull-shoving into British hearts and minds? Is it surprising that a historic game of football attracted 60,000 people to Wembley and that a routine exhibition match between two American football teams packed in a full house of 80,000? Is this because American football is getting it particularly right? Or because our own game has been getting it wrong?

Fate turns against Mansell

From John Blunsden
Bedsford

The Canon Williams team's second consecutive victory in the Hungarian Grand Prix yesterday came as a lucky break for the world championship leader, Nelson Piquet, but it brought heartache for Nigel Mansell, who had led all the way until a loose rear wheel nut flew off less than six laps from the end of the 76-lap contest.

Mansell had been in complete command from the start, driving just hard enough to keep comfortably ahead of Piquet as the two of them spent much of the race responding to each other's fastest laps. Mansell was 17 seconds clear — his biggest margin of the race — when his drive came to an abrupt end. And as Piquet drove serenely on to an emphatic victory over Ayrton Senna's Camel Lotus-Honda, he sat on a guard rail at the trackside, unable for a while to come to terms with his bad luck.

"Everything was so completely under control. I'd managed to pass all the slower traffic without getting into trouble, the car seemed to be absolutely all right, and then this. Fastest in qualifying, leading all the way — what more do I have to do?"

The Williams team had things very much their own way as one by one their closest challengers ran into problems.

The Ferraris, which had been the surprise of practice with their new-found competitiveness, separated the two Williams at the start. But Gerhard Berger, who had slightly anticipated the green light and incurred a 60-second penalty, was an early retirement from second place with a broken differential. Michele Alboreto took up the Ferrari challenge and closed to less than three seconds behind Mansell, but then he faded and dropped behind Piquet before retiring with engine failure.

Senna was put under considerable pressure by Thierry Boutsen's Benetton-Ford for many laps before pulling away to consolidate his third place behind Piquet at half-distance as Boutsen ran into a braking problem. But then Senna, too, began to have troubles, suffering from a steadily increasing wheel vibration which by the end of the race "was shaking the car like mad. It says much for its toughness that it could stand such vibrations for so long."

Senna's race position, however, had been secure because Alain Prost had one of his most frustrating races for a long time — an intermittent

Budapest details

RESULTS: 1. N. Piquet (B) Canon Williams-Honda, 76 laps, 1h 58m 25.75sec, 56.22pph; 2. A. Senna (F) Camel Lotus-Honda, 200.042pph; 3. A. Prost (F) Ferrari, 200.042pph; 4. T. Boutsen (B) Benetton-Ford, 76 laps, 1h 58m 25.75sec, 56.22pph; 5. R. Barrichello (B) Benetton-Ford, 76 laps, 1h 58m 25.75sec, 56.22pph; 6. G. Agazzi (I) Ferrari, 76 laps, 1h 58m 25.75sec, 56.22pph; 7. J. P. Jost (S) Tyrrell-Ford, 76 laps, 1h 58m 25.75sec, 56.22pph; 8. E. Cheever (USA) Arrows-McLaren, 74 laps, 1h 58m 25.75sec, 56.22pph; 9. P. Streif (F) Courrois Tyrrell-Ford, 74 laps, 1h 58m 25.75sec, 56.22pph; 10. J. Capelli (F) Ligier-Honda, 74 laps, 1h 58m 25.75sec, 56.22pph; 11. A. Nannini (I) Minardi-Modena, 73 laps, 1h 58m 25.75sec, 56.22pph; 12. P. Ghisleri (I) Ligier-Honda, 73 laps, 1h 58m 25.75sec, 56.22pph; 13. A. Mansell (B) Canon Williams-Honda, 70 laps, 1h 58m 25.75sec, 56.22pph; 14. N. Mansell (GB) Canon Williams-Honda, 70 laps, 1h 58m 25.75sec, 56.22pph.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP: Drivers: 1. Piquet 40pts; 2. Senna 41; equal 3. Mansell and Prost 35; 4. Barrichello 13; 5. Berger 9; 6. Alboreto 8; 7. Nannini 6; 8. Boutsen 5; equal 10. De Cesaris, Cheever, Streif and Piquet 4; equal 14. Fagioli and Warwick 3; equal 16. Brundle and Piquet 2; equal 18. Alesi, Arnoux and Capelli 1.

Constructors: 1. Williams-Honda 59 pts; 2. McLaren-TAG 45; 3. Lotus-Honda 47; 4. Ferrari 17; equal 5. Tyrrell-Honda 17; equal 6. Benetton-Ford 17; 7. Arrows-McLaren 1; 8. Brabham-SM 6; 9. Zakspeed 2; equal 10. March-Cosworth 1; Ligier-Honda 1; Courrois Tyrrell-Ford 1; Ligier-Honda 1; FIA Jim Clark Cup: 1. Piquet 57pts; 2. Senna 45; 3. Prost 44; 4. Alesi 19; 5. Capelli 10; FIA World Championship: 1. Tyrrell-Cosworth Ford 102 pts; 2. AGS-Cosworth Ford 55; 3. Ligier-Honda 54; 4. March-Cosworth Ford 10.

mis-fire preventing him from using more than 10,000 revs in his Marlboro McLaren instead of the usual 11,700.

"When you have that sort of problem there is simply nothing you can do," he said resignedly. Stefan Johansson spun to a halt with a seized gearbox in the other McLaren on lap 15, and a lap later two Fabs' Benetton retired with a similar problem.

Ricardo Patrese scored his first points of the season for Brabham by finishing fifth. "I had a slight turbo problem, then later my front tyres went off, giving me a lot of understeer, but it's great to be in the points again," he said.

Derek Warwick, though, was too exhausted to feel pleased about his point for sixth place with his Arrows. He had been suffering from a bad bout of flu all weekend, though produced a truly gritty performance on such a physically demanding circuit.

Jonathan Palmer ended up the decisive winner of the 34-litre category after being boxed in at the first corner and slipping to nineteenth place, then biding his time before picking off car after car with considerable precision to overtake his Data General Tyrrell team colleague, Philippe Streif, on lap 49, just as Martin Brundle's depressing weekend with his Zakspeed ended in the pits with a broken turbo.

"I can kiss goodbye to the championship," was Mansell's first reaction to retiring from the fourth time this year.



Piquet leading the way: in both yesterday's race and the world drivers' championship

An insipid tribute to Burns

By a Correspondent

Celtic.....0
Liverpool.....1

A rousing reception greeted Celtic's Tommy Burns at Parkhead yesterday as a 42,000 crowd turned out to pay tribute to a player who has served the club with distinction for more than 12 years.

Testimonials seem to be coming thick and fast these days, but few can have been as insipid as this one. Even the

arrival of Dalgligh and Beardsley failed to enliven it.

The first half gradually developed into a stuffy midfield affair. Only Burns himself and McStay offered the odd heartwarming moment. McStay set up Celtic's only chance of the first half, with a precise pass between Hansen and Gillespie for McGhee to latch onto. The forward could not control the ball, however, and Hansen mopped up.

Liverpool's goal came in the fortieth minute. Whelan gathered a loose ball 25 yards out and sent a spectacular shot into the top left-hand corner.

Celtic started the second half with more vigour and know-how, but in the end, they were perhaps lucky to lose only by one goal.

CELTIC: P. Bower; C. Morris, A. Hogan, R. Auld, P. McGowan (sub: O. Archibald); P. Grant, T. Sturges (sub: A. McPherson); M. McGhee, A. Walker, T. Burns.

LIVERPOOL: S. Crabb; G. Gillespie, S. Vernon, S. Nicol, R. Whelan, A. Hansen, P. Walsh (sub: C. Douglas), A. Johnston (sub: S. Macdonald), C. Johnston, J. Barnes, S. Macdonald.

Referee: K. J. Hope.

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Clark's 63 steals title

A brilliant closing round of 63, nine under par, turned a five-stroke overnight deficit into a two-shot victory for Howard Clark in the PLM Open, at Ljungby, yesterday (Robert Green writes).

Clark's round could have been even better — he missed two birdie putts from inside 10 feet. Nevertheless, when he reached the turn in 30, five under par, he was just a stroke behind the overnight leader, Peter Senior.

He birdied the short 11th,

Clark's 63 steals title

and when he found the 13th green with a magnificent three wood and took two putts for a birdie four, he went into the lead.

Clark secured the title over the final three holes. He saved par with a fine bunker shot at the 16th, birdied the next, and holed from three yards at the last for his ninth birdie of the afternoon.

FINAL SCORES (British and Irish unless stated): 271-11: H. Clark, 63, 68, 68, 68, 270; P. Senior (AUS), 73, 69, 68, 68, 278; P. Senior (AUS), 67, 68, 67, 71, 273; V. Fernandez (ARG), 72, 68, 70, 66, 67, 273; R. Fothery, 68, 71, 69, 68, 276.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Croft may live in US

Annabel Croft, the former British women's No. 1 player, is considering a move to the United States in an attempt to revitalize her tennis career.

Inspired by the atmosphere and lifestyle enjoyed while practising with John Lloyd in Los Angeles after Wimbledon, she believes her game will benefit by a temporary move.

Morse double

Britain's Karen Morse won the women's slalom and jump titles — the latter with 38.90 metres — at the European water skiing championships in Marignane, France.

Lancia title

Massimo Biasion, of Italy, won the Argentinian rally to clinch the 1987 world manufacturer's title for Lancia.

Roche aid

The bicycle that Stephen Roche rode to victory in this year's Tour de France was auctioned for £28,000 in aid of a Dublin hospice at the weekend. Meanwhile, Roche, aged 27, who became the first Irishman to win the Tour, will delay his decision on entering this week's Tour of Britain until he has seen a doctor in Paris today. He is nursing a strained thigh muscle.

Lammers' day

Jan Lammers, of the Netherlands, won his first victory in the F3000 motor racing series in Goteborg, Sweden, yesterday. He averaged 126.606 m.p.h. over the 23-lap course at the foot of Mount Fuji.

Striking start

Angry riders staged a sit-down strike and refused to start the fifth stage of the Tour of Denmark cycle race after officials threatened to halve prize money because of slow times. The threat was withdrawn and the stage was won by Eric Vanderaerden, of Belgium.

Czech mate

Emilio Sanchez, of Spain, denied Miloslav Mecir his sixth tournament win of the year with a victory in four sets at the Kitzbuhel Grand Prix tennis tournament yesterday. The Spanish No. 1 beat the listless Czech 6-4, 6-1, 4-6, 6-1 in under two hours.

Lendl given rough ride by teenager

Stratton Mountain (Reuter) — Ivan Lendl and John McEnroe set the stage for their first meeting in two years by winning their semi-final matches on Saturday at the Stratton Island grand prix tournament.

Lendl, the No. 1 seed, struggled to beat the unseeded American, Andre Agassi, 6-2 5-7 6-3 while McEnroe, the No. 4 seed, easily beat the No. 15 seed, Christo van Rensburg, of South Africa, 6-4 6-2.

Lendl served 17 aces and needed them all on Saturday, as Agassi was able to match him stroke for stroke.

McEnroe was seldom troubled by Van Rensburg, although McEnroe put less than half his first serves into play.

BANK OF WALES BASE RATE

Bank of Wales announces that its Base Rate has been increased from 9% to 10% with effect from 7th August 1987.

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Mersey clubs facing FA threat to tour

Fears are growing that two prestige practice matches in Madrid involving Everton and Liverpool could well be sacrificed if the FA continues its safety-first policy, aimed at ending England's exile from Europe (Ian Ross writes).

Liverpool are scheduled to play Atletico Madrid, on consecutive nights later this month. But the FA may, at this belated stage, refuse to sanction the fixtures.

The worry is that the Spanish city would be besieged by rival supporters on the same day and although both clubs can boast excellent crowd behaviour records in the wake of the Heysel Stadium disaster in May 1985, the FA, mindful that even a few incidents could mean an indefinite extension to the UEFA ban on British clubs competing in European competitions, seems unlikely to take any risks.

Change of Britain mines to the

France to reinforce ask force

Chairman

Results

Results

Results

Results

Results

Results